Vol. LXIX—No. 2.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Acc. No. 353
21 JUNE 1949
LIBRARY

Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Assembly

Twentieth Session, 1945

The 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 27th, 28th and 29th March, 1945.

Superintendent, Government Printing,
Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal
1945

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble RICHARD GARDINER CASEY, C.H., D.S.O., M.C.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN, K.C.I.E., in charge of the Home (Civil Defence Co-ordination) Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY, in charge of the Department of Civil Supplies.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI, in charge of the Finance Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN, in charge of the Education Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN, in charge of the Department of Communications and Works.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN, in charge of the Department of Agriculture (Rural Reconstruction).

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA, M.B.E., in charge of the Revenue Department (Evacuation and Relief).

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur, in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN, C.B.E., in charge of the Departments of Commerce, Labour and Industries (including Post-War Reconstruction).

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA, in charge of the Forests and Excise Department.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMED, in charge of the Department of Public Health and Local Self-Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK, in charge of the Publicity Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL, in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY, Esq.

SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFZAL, Esq., BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

AJIT RANJAN MUKHERJEA, Esq., M.SC., B.L.

SECOND ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Khan Sahib Qazi SADRUL OLA.

REGISTRAR.

Maulvi MD. NAJIBULLAH.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

(1) Kiran Sankar Roy, Esq.
(2) J. R. Walker, Esq.
(3) Shamsuddin Ahmed, Esq.
(4) Dr. Sir A. F. Rahman.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Official Report of the Twentieth Session.

Volume LXIX—No. 2.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

The ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 12th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present.

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 185 members.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Overcrowding in the Nazirhat-Chittagong and Dohazari-Chittagong branch railway lines.

***162. Dr. SANAULLAH:** Has the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department ascertained—

(*a*) the number of deaths up to the end of 1944 due to overcrowding leading to riding on the roofs of the trains running on—

(*i*) Nazirhat and Chittagong, and

(*ii*) Dohazari and Chittagong,

branch lines; and

(*b*) inconvenience and difficulties of the local travelling public and the officials due to abnormal delays and unusual train timings and curtailment of many train services due to war emergency?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain): (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) One.

(*b*) I am informed by the Railway Administration that due to war conditions the train service had to be curtailed and the timings were revised to cater for the needs of the majority of local passengers. There is undoubted inconvenience, but it cannot perhaps be helped, so long as the present abnormal conditions continue.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Eye-troubles of Dr. Atindra Nath Bose, a security prisoner.

53. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that security prisoner, Dr. Atindra Nath Bose, M.A., P.R.S., PH.D., at present lodged in the Rajshahi Central Jail, has been suffering from eye-troubles for a long time; and

(*ii*) that he has been examined by the Government Eye Specialist in the Jail who prescribed him lenses of high power?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the dates when he was examined;

(*ii*) the date when the lenses were prescribed;

(*iii*) the date when the Jail authorities placed order for lenses; and

(*iv*) whether he has been supplied with the lenses prescribed, and if so, the date of supply?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) He first complained of the unsuitability of his glasses in the first week of August, 1944.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) The 11th August, 8th September, and 6th October, 1944.

(*ii*) The 6th October, 1944.

(*iii*) The 23rd November, 1944.

(*iv*) Yes, on the 26th December, 1944.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, it becomes very difficult if held-over questions of 5th March, 6th March or the 7th March are taken up today in this way because in that case we miss them. If those held-over questions are brought before the House today we expect that we shall be supplied with copies of those questions or the questions will be read out.

Mr. SPEAKER: It will be difficult to recirculate copies of questions. There is, of course, certain inconvenience to members if they do not know if a particular held-over question will come up on a particular day. I will look into the matter and see that the inconvenience is removed.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, they were aware that these questions were coming up today in the normal course of business. If the honourable member says that he has mislaid the papers that is a different matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not discuss that.

Granting of gratuity to heirs of a chowkidar of police-station Raiganj, shot to death when on duty.

54. Babu SYAMAPRASAD BARMAN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that a village chowkidar of Union No. 8 under police-station Raiganj in the district of Dinajpur was shot to death, when on duty, by the brother of the Officer-in-charge of the police-station with a gun of the thana?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken—

(*i*) to bring the offenders to book; and

(*ii*) to grant gratuity to the heirs of the deceased chowkidar?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes, as reported to Government.

(*b*) (*i*) A case has been started under section 304, Indian Penal Code, against the alleged officer and it is now *sub judice*.

(*ii*) This will be considered.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Muslim security prisoners.

*163. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the present number of Muslim security prisoners with names and addresses—

(*i*) detained in the—

(1) Dacca Central Jail,

(2) Presidency Central Jail, and

(3) any other jail;

(*ii*) the number of them that have been released—

(1) on condition, and

(2) without any condition;

(*iii*) those who are receiving family allowances; and

(*iv*) monthly or lump allowance granted to each of them?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for the detention of the Muslim security prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) and (*iii*) A statement is placed on the Library Table.

(*ii*) (1) One.

(2) Twenty-five.

(*iv*) No monthly or lump allowance is granted to any security prisoner other than the family allowance.

(*b*) They are detained with a view to preventing them from acting in any manner prejudicial to the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order and the efficient prosecution of the war.

Starred Question No. 164.

(When Starred Question No. 164 was called.)

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, cannot these questions be read out today?

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that you are inconvenienced, because you have not got copies of questions before you.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I suggest that these questions be held-over today and taken up tomorrow.

Mr. SPEAKER: That will be the best thing to do. You will bring your copies tomorrow. Let us now take up the questions of today.

Starred Question No. 22, held over on 22nd November, 1944.

Medical treatment of certain political prisoners.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the following political prisoners are suffering from ailments mentioned against their names or any other ailments of serious nature?—

(1) Sj. Surendra Mohan Ghosh—Malignant malaria and repeated attacks of malaria.

(2) Miss Kamala Das Gupta, M.A.—Slow and persistent fever. Suspected spinal tuberculosis.

(3) Sj. Amiya Kumar Roy Chaudhury, B.A.—Angina Pectoris, chronic dysentery and intestinal trouble.

(4) Sj. Arun Kumar Roy Chaudhury, B.A.—Chronic dysentery and intestinal trouble.

(5) Sj. Amiya Lal Banerji—Tuberculosis of the lungs.

(6) Sj. Manmatha Nath Das, Advocate, High Court, Calcutta—High blood pressure and piles.

(7) Sj. Priya Ranjan Sen, M.A., P.R.S., Professor, University of Calcutta—Acute dyspepsia.

(8) Sj. Bejoy Sinha Nehar, Councillor, Calcutta Corporation—Repeated attacks of malaria.

(9) Sj. Sarat Chandra Chakravarty, B.L.—Complete loss of eyesight.

(10) Sj. Upendra Nath Roy—Loss of eyesight.

(11) Sj. Kiran Chandra Mukharji—Intestinal paralysis.

(12) Sj. Adwaita Dutt—Renal colic and gall bladder trouble.

(13) Sj. Jamini Kanta Goswami, B.L.—Dyspepsia and nervous trouble.

(14) Mr. Abdus Sattar, B.A.—Colic and rheumatism.

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the above prisoners have been examined by any specialist?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the diagnosis and prognosis in each case; and

(*ii*) the nature of treatment that are being given to each of them now?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): Of the 14 prisoners, Babu Amiya Kumar Roy Chowdhury, Babu Arun Kumar Roy Chowdhury, Babu Manmatha Nath Das, Babu Priya Ranjan Sen, Babu Sarat Chandra Chakravarty, Babu Jamini Kanta Goswami, Maulvi Abdus Sattar and Babu Bijay Sinha Nahar have already been released.

Babu Surendra Mohan Ghosh has no serious ailment at present. The general state of his health has all along been good and there has been no occasion for any examination by a specialist.

Miss Kamala Das Gupta is suffering from spinal tuberculosis. She was examined by Colonel Anderson and Dr. L. M. Banerjee and both of them advised her operation or plastic treatment, but she refused the treatment unless she is released. She is keeping well at present.

Babu Amiya Lal Banerjee is suffering from chronic dyspepsia. He was treated in the Medical College Hospitals under the First Physician and then produced before a Medical Board which declared that he did not require any specialised treatment. He is now getting usual treatment and special extra diet in the jail.

Babu Upendra Nath Roy has cataract of one eye which has not yet been operated. He is receiving treatment from the Eye Specialist and is doing well at present.

Babu Kiran Chandra Mukherjee is suffering from prolapse of rectum. He was treated in the Medical College Hospitals for a long time and is at present getting proper treatment in the jail.

Babu Adwaita Charan Dutt was in the Medical College Hospitals for more than three months under the First Physician. His is a case of duodenal ulcer. He is kept on medicinal and dietetic treatment as advised by the First Physician. In November, 1944, he was produced before a Medical Board which reported that his case was not serious.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that if plastic treatment is given to Miss Kamala Das Gupta, she will have to lie in bed for 2 years together without movement, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable that she should be relased and given proper treatment, there being no chance of her taking part in any movement whatsoever?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware whether it will entail lying in bed for two years if she has to undertake plastic treatment, but I may inform the honourable members that the Hon'ble Chief Minister is considering the question of giving conditional release to this security prisoner.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government consider that Babu Surendra Mohan Ghosh is cured of malaria altogether?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of allowing these ailing security prisoners to be examined by medical experts of their own choice?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: These prisoners are getting the best possible medical assistance.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Babu Kiran Chandra Mukharji was removed from the Medical College Hospital and whether that removal was done under medical advice?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, it was done under medical advice He was there for some time, and after his discharge from there his treatment is being continued in jail.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Kiran Chandra Mukharji wanted to stay for his treatment in the Medical College Hospital for a longer time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will Government consider the desirability of forming a mixed Medical Board consisting of official and non-official experts to examine these ailing security prisoners as well as other security prisoners in the province?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The present Medical Board is functioning, and as there is no complaint about their working Government do not consider it desirable to form any other Board.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he remembers that one honourable member of this House, my honourable friend Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu, complained about one member of the present Board, namely, Colonel Murray on the floor of the House?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That complaint was about Colonel Anderson, not as a member of any Board.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the objections to appointing eminent non-official physicians and surgeons in the Board?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That question has not been examined by Government, and therefore, I do not know whether it is a feasible proposition or not.

Supply of fine rice to security prisoners in Dinajpur Jail.

*178. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that fine rice is not supplied to the security prisoners and the prisoners lodged in the Dinajpur Jail Hospital according to the rules, and

(*ii*) that Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu, M.L.A., wrote a note to the above effect in the Visitors' Book while he was a visitor and drew the attention of the Jail Superintendent to this;

(*b*) whether the Jail Superintendent brought the matter to the notice of the Government or the Inspector-General of Prisons;

(*c*) what steps, if any, have been taken in this respect;

(*d*) what is the name of the variety of rice that is supplied to the security prisoners and the hospital patient in the Dinajpur Jail; and

(*e*) whether *Kataribhog* which is the fine rice in Dinajpur, is supplied to the security prisoners and the hospital patients in the Dinajpur Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Fine rice was always issued to the security prisoners lodged in the Dinajpur Jail Hospital till the price of rice was controlled by Government. The issue had to be stopped as the old stock of fine rice was exhausted and the Civil Supplies Department failed to supply any more. The medium quality rice supplied by the Civil Supplies Department is now supplied.

(*ii*) Available records do not show any such entry.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The Civil Supplies Department was written to but they failed to ensure continuous supply of fine rice. Neither can it be locally purchased at controlled price.

(*d*) *Dwarikasal* a medium variety.

(*e*) No.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of mandatory provisions in the Jail Code to supply fine rice to security prisoners and classified prisoners and to the patients in hospital, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government was helpless, because the fine quality of rice was not available.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Government think it desirable to place order with any private businessmen there for the supply of fine rice to the prisoners in Dinajpur Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Attempts were made to procure fine rice at controlled price, but it was not available.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Are Government prepared to place orders with private traders in Dinajpur?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, if rice is available at controlled rate Government are prepared to do so.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister say that Kataribhog rice is not available in Dinajpur?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know whether a particular variety is available, but my information is that fine rice is not available at controlled rate in Dinajpur.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of enquiring as to whether the jail records have been tampered or distorted by the jail officials or any of the people?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is no evidence of any tampering in the Visitors' Book.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the difference of price between the fine rice that was to be supplied and the medium rice that is being supplied?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know that, but fine rice is not available.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government issued directions for making up this loss in quality in other respects to the security prisoners?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is vague.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*b*), namely, "Yes" in reply to the question whether the Jail Superintendent brought the matter to the notice of the Government or the Inspector-General of Prisons, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what reply was given to the Jail Superintendent who is also the Civil Surgeon of Dinajpur with reference to the letter by which he drew the attention of the Government to the non-supply of fine rice to the patients?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. I do not know what reply was given, but I have this much information that attempts were made to procure fine rice at controlled rate, but the attempt was futile.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the controlled rate for fine rice and for medium rice and for coarse rice in Dinajpur? Is there any controlled rate at all?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know if there is any grading of rice at varying controlled prices. I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, if there is no gradation for different varieties of rice, how does he say that fine variety of rice is not available?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. It is clear.

Increment of family allowance to Babu Sitala Kanta Maitra, a security prisoner.

***179. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Babu Sitala Kanta Maitra of Rangpur town at present detained as a security prisoner in the Rajshahi Central Jail has submitted several petitions to the Government for the increment of his family allowance of Rs.15 only per month which was granted to him on the 14th September, 1943;

(*ii*) that before his arrest, he was earning not less than Rs.70 to 80 per month from his restaurant at Rangpur town;

(iii) that this restaurant was closed down due to his absence after his arrest;

(iv) that he is the eldest son of his aged father and was the mainstay of his family before his arrest; and

(v) that since his arrest, his family has been in great distress due to the loss of his income?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of increasing the amount of his family allowance?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (a) (i) and (iii) Yes.

(ii) No; my information is that he had an average income of Rs.10 to Rs.15 per month from a small tea shop.

(iv) I have no information if he is the eldest son of his father; his father and brothers are earning.

(v) and (b) No.

(c) Rs.15 per month which was the income of the security prisoner before arrest, has already been granted as family allowance to him and no increment is considered justified as his father and brothers are earning.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what the brothers and the father are earning?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The father of the security prisoner is the headmaster of a municipal school and earns about Rs. 50 a month.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: And the brothers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The brothers are earning, but I have no definite information here as regards the amounts they earn.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any one represeting this security prisoner was allowed to place the case regarding his earning and to substantiate that he was earning Rs. 70 or Rs. 80, while he was at large?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The position as regards this prisoner is this: he is a bachelor and has no dependant and his father and brothers are all earning; but even though it has not been the usual policy of Government to grant any allowance when there is no dependant, an allowance has been granted to this prisoner on compassionate ground.

Appointment of Sergeants in Calcutta Police.

***180. Mr. SYED SAHABE-ALAM:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(i) that Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians are eligible for appointments as Sergeants of Calcutta Police; and

(ii) that Indians (both Muslims and Hindus) are not eligible?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) the total number of Sergeants of Police in Calcutta;

(ii) their salary and allowances; and

(iii) the number of them that are (I) Europeans, (II) Anglo-Indians and (III) Indian Christians?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Europeans and Anglo-Indians only are eligible for appointments as Sergeants of Police.

(*b*) Because they are considered particularly suited for the duties required in these posts.

(*c*) A statement is placed on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (c) of starred question No. 180.

(*c*)(*i*) Permanent—206.

Temporary—171.

(*ii*) Scales of pay—Rs.200—5/2—250.

Dearness allowance—10 per cent. of pay.

Emergency area bonus—Rs.20 per month.

Conveyance allowance—Rs.15.

(*iii*) Europeans—84.

Anglo-Indians—240.

Anglo-Burmese—11.

Jews—2.

Vacancy—40.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the special duties of sergeants in the Calcutta Police?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, that is a very general question and I cannot answer that question off-hand without papers.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is it not a fact that the duties of the sergeants of the Calcutta Police are the same as the duties of the Constables of the Calcutta Police?

Mr. SPEAKER: After his first answer that question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in what respects are Indians, both Hindus and Muslims, considered particularly unsuited for the duties required in the post of Police Sergeants?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: One of the reasons amongst others is that a compact body of European Sergeants in Calcutta gives a sense of security to the various sections of the Indian community, particularly in times of communal stress. Besides that, the European Sergeants are also considered to be more useful when the Police have to deal with the European and other non-Indian nationals.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what country these two Jews belong to?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice as regards the country from which they come.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House whether he is aware that Indians are not afraid of the Europeans now?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of appointing a European as the Home Minister in charge of the Police?

Mr. SPEAKER: *That question does not arise.*

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if there are any minimum qualifications laid down for appointment as Sergeants of Police and, if so, what are those minimum qualifications?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the minimum qualification for appointment of Sergeants from out of the Anglo-Indian and European communities is lower than the minimum qualification of even a Sub-Inspector of Police from amongst Hindus and Muslims?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If the honourable member refers to educational qualifications, presumably it is so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the minimum starting salary of the Anglo-Indian and European Sergeants of Police as compared with the minimum starting salary of Indian—Hindu and Muslim Sub-Inspectors of Police?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The scales of pay of Sergeants have been given in the statement referred to in the reply to the question and the pay of Sub-Inspectors of Calcutta Police begins from Rs. 125 per mensem.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why discrimination has been made in favour of Anglo-Indians and Europeans in the matter of pay even when their qualification is lower for appointment to duties of Sergeants of Police compared to Sub-Inspectors of Police?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a very big issue and cannot be answered in reply to a question, but I only want to point out that when I stated with regard to qualifications, I meant only educational qualifications.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is there any minimum age-limit below which no Sergeant of the Calcutta Police can be employed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if he is aware that there are young lads of hardly 20 years appointed as Sergeants of Police who are given revolvers and arms which they never handled before?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice, as I have already stated I do not know what is the minimum age-limit of Sergeants.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if it is a fact that during the period immediately following the excitement after August, 1942, a large number of European and Anglo-Indian Sergeants were appointed by the Bengal Government to terrorise the people?

Mr. SPEAKER: "To terrorise the people" should be omitted. You cannot say "terrorise".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir. Will the honourable member be pleased to state whether a large number of European and Anglo-Indian Sergeants were appointed without looking into even their minimum qualifications?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: When these appointments were made the previous Ministry was in office.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if these facts are available in his office now or not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, the facts are available.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Whether the appointments were made during the previous Ministry or not is not my question. My question is whether it is a fact that a large number of Anglo-Indian and European Sergeants were appointed in Calcutta shortly after the excitement of August, 1942.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, some appointments were made—I think 36 in number—and the men appointed were to act as reserve against possible casualties as a result of hostile action.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state how many of these 36 persons passed out through any University course?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if it is a fact that a large number of them or some of them had no University education of any character whatsoever?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that I do not know what were the qualifications and so it is useless to pursue that point.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if he is aware that even amongst the Sergeants of Police there is a good deal of disaffection, because of the fact that new entrants have been permitted to come in without passing through necessary examinations and tests whereas the older hands had rigorous tests and examinations to go through?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government are not aware of any such dissatisfaction, but all these Sergeants who are appointed have to undergo a rigorous course of training in the Police Training School.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state how many months of training did these 36 members of the newly recruited staff obtain and where?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot state the period of training, but they were trained at the Police Training School.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How many months of training had each to undergo?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the considerations for which this discrimination in pay is made by Government in respect of appointment of Anglo-Indian Sergeants?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not follow what the honourable member means by "discrimination" in the matter of Anglo-Indian Sergeants. The Anglo-Indian and Europeans are paid at the same rate.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Discrimination between Indian and Anglo-Indian and European Police Officers of the same rank.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is no discrimination.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state why Anglo-Burmese and Jews are also ranked in the same category of privileged persons as against Indians?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not understand what the honourable member means by "privileged persons".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The answer says "Anglo-Burmese—11, Jews—2", who were also appointed as Sergeants of Police to the exclusion of Indians.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Because they were considered suitable to meet the requirement and to deal with the work which the Police Officers are to do. Sometime back Mr. Datta wanted me to mention the duties which the Sergeants of Police have to perform and if he is still eager to have that information, I can supply it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if any racial discrimination is made in the matter of admission into the rank of Sergeants of the Bengal Police or Calcutta Police? Is racial ground one of the criteria of admission?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, as I have already stated, for particular kind of work, it is essential to have a body of men who are non-Indian so that they may perform the duties and I have already explained the reasons.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the honourable member aware that Anglo-Indians claim to be Indians and nationals of this country?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, some of them do claim.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Minister be pleased to state if Indian Christians are considered safe enough in the same way as Anglo-Indians are where Hindus and Muslims have got to be handled?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, the question of safety does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, if Indian Christians can be depended upon to be included in the rank of Sergeants?

Mr. SPEAKER: How does that question arise?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the answer was that for a certain category of work non-Indians other than Hindus and Muslims were considered suitable by Government. Therefore my question is whether Indian Christians also could be considered suitable for such duties?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes; you can ask that.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: At present I find that the Indian Christians have not been considered in the same category.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the criterion for success in that category of work undefined is the community to which the person belongs and not class of duty or the physical or other ability?

Mr. SPEAKER: The answers are all clear.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is it a fact that they are appointed to terrorise the people?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to revise the policy in regard to the appointment of Sergeants in Calcutta?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: A proposal for the amalgamation of the posts of Sergeants and Sub-Inspectors of Police is under the consideration of Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government had under examination any proposal for increasing the emoluments of Sergeants of the Calcutta Police in view of the high increase in the cost of living of that category of Government employees?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, not exactly, but actually the Sergeants were originally recruited from non-commissioned officers' rank in the British Army, because these officers had to do a particular type of work for which the non-commissioned officers were found most suitable, but now due to war conditions, it is not possible to recruit such men and, therefore, Government have been seriously taking this matter into consideration, and at the present moment, there is before Government a proposal for the abolition of the grade of Sergeants and its assimilation in a single cadre of Sub-Inspector. A proposal like that is being considered by Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that Sub-Inspectors of Police have got to pass a test of knowledge of the criminal law of the land, whereas the Sergeants have not got to pass such tests?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In the Police Training School such training is given both to the Sub-Inspectors and to Sergeants.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Sergeants are confirmed with or without certificate of having passed the test so far as law examination is concerned?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of it; I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if, in consideration of the onerous duties performed by the Sergeants, Government is considering the desirability of remunerating them more fully and liberally?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow that question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of enhancing the emoluments during the emergency for the very good and onerous work that they have to perform?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Rules prevent it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a number of Sergeants have to put in prolonged hours of work during the Assembly Session and during the months when football season is on?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Occasionally they have to do extra work as and when occasion arises.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that during certain periods of the year, the Sergeants hardly get six to eight hours rest in a day?

Mr. SPEAKER: You are going too far into details.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have any system of giving extra time allowance for additional duties put in by the Sergeants and is there any definite maximum hour of duty per day for them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of perpetuating this racial distinction in the appointment of Sergeants to ensure——

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow that question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given that Sergeants have to put in extra duties for some period in the year, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to pay them extra allowance for the extra duties they have to perform?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If the honourable member is so anxious to give them extra remuneration, and if he writes to Government to that effect, I do not know what Government will do.

Recruitment of Sub-Inspectors of Police in 1944.

*181. **Babu SHYAMA PROSAD BARMAN:** (A) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(1) the number of Sub-Inspectors of Police recruited in 1944;

(2) how many of them were—

(*a*) Caste Hindus,

(*b*) Muslims, and

(*c*) Scheduled Castes; and

(3) whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that Babu Umesh Chandra Sarkar, a Scheduled Caste candidate, was selected for appointment,

(*b*) that he was refused appointment when he joined the Sarda Training School,

(*c*) that Babu Kartik Chandra Ray, also a Scheduled Caste candidate who was in the reserve list, was appointed, and

(*d*) that he was subsequently discharged?

(B) If the answers to (3) (*b*) and (*d*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (A) (1) 100 recruited directly.

(2) (*a*) 24, (*b*) 66 and (*c*) 10.

(3) (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) There was no candidate by name Kartick Chandra Ray. Kartick Chandra Sinha was however a candidate and he was appointed.

(*d*) Kartick Chandra Sinha was discharged as surplus but was reappointed in a subsequent vacancy.

(B) Does not arise.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: With reference to answer (*A*) (*1*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Communal Ratio Rules were applied to those recruitments?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number which the Scheduled Castes are entitled to get under the Communal Ratio Rules in the case of 100 recruitments?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. You yourself know the percentage thoroughly well.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why only 10 appointments were made from the Scheduled Castes?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice; but I presume because more than that number were not available for appointment.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the information at his disposal according to which he says that the requisite number of candidates are not available from the Scheduled Castes?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I said, I was not fully aware of this. I said "I presume because suitable candidates were not available".

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no promotion was given from the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police at the time of recruitment? It is usually done that a certain percentage of promotion is given from the Assistant Sub-Inspectors. Why was this not done in this particular case during 1944?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In addition to these appointments hundred departmental officers were also promoted to the rank of Sub-Inspector.

Bamboo cultivation.

*182. **Mr. D. C. SMYTH-OSBOURNE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forests and Excise Department be pleased to state if he is aware—

(*i*) of the importance of bamboo cultivation both for ordinary village purposes and for industrial purposes;

(*ii*) that owing to the heavy demand for military purposes, there is now a serious shortage of bamboo in the Province; and

(*iii*) the military and Public Works Department contractors have been cutting and clear-felling bamboo without following any system with the result that it will be many years before the bamboo grows again and gives the previous annual yield?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to take any steps—

(*i*) to encourage bamboo cultivation; and

(*ii*) to enforce general adoption of a selective system of cutting, so as to produce a regular annual yield?

(*c*) If so, what steps and when will they be taken?

(*d*) If not, why not?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have formulated any plans for the afforestation of waste lands?

(*f*) If so, whether such plans include the planting of bamboo on suitable lands?

(*g*) If not, is Government considering the desirability of including bamboo cultivation in any schemes for afforestation of waste lands?

MINISTER in charge of the FORESTS and EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari Barma): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) I am not aware of any serious shortage in the Province but so far as the Forests Department is concerned such is not the case.

(*iii*) Not so in case of Government Forests.

(*b*) (*i*) Bamboo cultivation on an adequate scale is already undertaken in Government forests.

(*ii*) The Forests Department has already got working plans prescribing rotational cutting on a selective system.

(*c*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

(*e*) to (*g*) Plans for afforestation of waste lands including bamboo cultivation will be formulated as soon as the Bengal Private Forests Bill, 1944, is enacted.

Mr. A. F. STARK: With reference to answer (*a*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has made any enquiries to ascertain if there is a shortage of bamboo in the province?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: So far as Government forests are concerned, there is abundant supply of bamboo in Northern Bengal forests which the Forest Department is not able to dispose of. Whether there is any shortage of bamboo in private forests or not, I cannot say.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Does the Hon'ble Minister not consider it necessary to make enquiries as to whether there is a shortage of bamboo in the province or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: How is it possible for the Department to make enquiries throughout Bengal to find out whether there is a shortage of bamboo or not?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to answer (*e*) to (*g*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why should the formulation or preparation of plans await the passage of the Bengal Private Forests Bill?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Unless the Private Forests Bill is enacted into law and we take control of private forests and other waste lands in accordance with the provisions of that Bill, how can we take up these things?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Does the Hon'ble Minister feel sure that no plan need be formulated with reference to public forests?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: We have a plan.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any scheme of afforestation has been undertaken so far as Government forests are concerned with reference to bamboo?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Yes, there is a scheme.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where the scheme has been taken up and put into execution?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: It is being executed everywhere.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the price of bamboo at present compared with pre-war prices?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: I submit that, that question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the answer that the Forest Department finds no difficulty or shortage in bamboo, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state at what price and what quantity of bamboo the Forest Department is in a position to supply now?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: I cannot say off-hand. I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Forest Department has any plan or scheme of planting bamboo on a large or extensive scale?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Where?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am asking the Hon'ble Minister where. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government Forest Department has got any plan or any scheme for afforestation of bamboo?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: I have already said that in Northern Bengal Government forests, there is sufficient bamboo which the Department is not able to dispose of.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which forest areas under Government control have not got a large supply of bamboo available?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: I ask for notice.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he considers that Government's responsibility for forests terminates with Government forests?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Before the Private Forests Bill becomes the law of the land, how can we have any responsibility for private forests?

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain what steps he has taken to encourage bamboo cultivation in the province? That is the question and there is no answer to it.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: The Forest Department has not yet taken up the question of encouraging private people to grow bamboo.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Could we have that reply again?

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you kindly speak up?

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain if Government are considering taking any steps to assist cultivators of bamboo to extend the cultivation of bamboo in the province?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Up till now, the Forest Department has no such plan of encouraging private people to take to afforestation of bamboo or other things. But as soon as the Private Forests Bill is passed, in those areas which are controlled by the Forest Department, steps will be taken for encouraging the plantation by private people of bamboo.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is considering the desirability of taking up the question of encouragement of bamboo cutlivation with the Agriculture Department in such areas of Bengal where forests do not exist?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: That is a matter which concerns the Agriculture Department. Whether they will do it or not, it is for that Department to say.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Government be pleased to state if they are aware of great hardship caused to the rural population for want of bamboo for their huts apart from the demand for bamboo by European mill owners to make profits out of the manufacture of bamboo into paper?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: It may be so.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: As the Private Forests Bill is more for Western Bengal, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of encouraging the cultivation of bamboo in Eastern Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: It is for the whole province.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any scheme has been prepared by Government to use the bamboo in Bengal against the Oppositionists?

(No answer.)

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government considers the desirability of controlling the export of bamboos from rural areas of Bengal in view of the admitted fact that there is acute scarcity there?

Mr. SPEAKER: The second part of the question does not arise. You may answer the first part only, Mr. Barma.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Government will consider the matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention was drawn to the observations of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that large areas are available in Chittagong forests for afforestation and also for growing bamboos suitable for paper mills and otherwise?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: I ask for notice.

Sabai grass cultivation.

***183. Mr. D. C. SMYTH-OSBOURNE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forests and Excise Department be pleased to state if he is aware—

(*i*) that *sabai* grass was referred to by the West Bengal Forest Committee as an agency for forming new surface soil on eroded land and thus facilitating afforestation in West Bengal; and

(*ii*) that there is a ready market for large quantities of *sabai* grass as a material for paper-making and rope-making?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have formulated any plans—

(*i*) to encourage *sabai* grass cultivation generally; and

(*ii*) to utilise *sabai* grass in preparing the soil of waste lands for afforestation?

(c) If so, what is the nature of these plans?

(d) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) The Forests Department have taken up necessary investigations with a view to formulating plans to be implemented after the Bengal Private Forests Bill, 1944, has been passed into law.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how far the investigations have proceeded?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Yes, the Department is going to investigate into the West Bengal areas where this grass can be cultivated.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the subdivisions in West Bengal, where these experiments are going on regarding the possibility of Sabai grass cultivation?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: No experiments but investigations are going on

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What are the areas where the investigations are going on?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: I think it is going on at Raniganj and some other places, but I do not know anything about the areas.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that large quantities of Sabai grass are now supplied to the paper mills in Bengal from Midnapore, particularly from the Garbeta and Jhargram areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: I want notice

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have any scheme for improving the supply of Sabai grass and encourage the cultivation thereof in Birbhum and Bankura districts where on account of drought other crops cannot be produced?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: We have schemes for that and as soon as the Private Forests Bill is passed, we shall take that matter up?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: What is the nature of those schemes and with reference to which areas those schemes are going to be taken up?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: I cannot answer that question off-hand.

Supply of cocoons and charka silk to reelers and filature owners.

*184. **Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact—

(i) that large portions of silk cocoons are being absorbed by the factories for production of fine silk for military purposes, and

(ii) that filature owners are not getting supply of cocoons for producing *charka* silk;

(b) whether Government have any scheme for giving adequate supply to filature owners for facilitating production of silk yarn on cottage industries scale;

(c) what steps have been taken—

(i) with a view to promoting silk yarn production on *charka*, and

(ii) for increasing mulberry cultivation for the above purpose;

(*d*) whether Government have taken up or are about to take up revival of *charka* silk as a part of rehabilitation project;

(*e*) what is the policy (setting forth important details) of the Government with regard to revival of *charka* silk yarn; and

(*f*) what arrangements have been made for ensuring supply of silk yarn to the handloom weavers?

MINISTER in charge of the INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin): (*a*) (*i*) I take it that by "factories" the member has in view "filatures" which supply silk for the Defence Services. At present the filatures are not getting more than 25 per cent. of the total output of cocoons due to black-marketing.

(*ii*) Does not arise as the filatures do not produce *charka* silk.

(*b*) Most of the filatures work on cottage industries scale and they are being assisted in getting supplies of cocoons under the provisions of the Bengal Silk Control Order, 1943. There is no other scheme in operation at present.

(*c*) With a view to promoting silk yarn production on *charka*, new and improved types of *charka* have been designed and introduced and demonstration parties are engaged in giving demonstration and training in improved methods of reeling. And for increasing mulberry cultivation, rewards are granted to mulberry growers and bonuses to silk worm rearers to encourage plantation of tree mulberry. Free supply of mulberry grafts and cuttings is also made.

(*d*) No. The present unsatisfactory position of cocoon supply stands in the way.

(*e*) Silk reeled on indigenous *charkas* having been found to be defective it is the policy of Government to discourage indigenous reeling. As a step towards the revival of *charka* silk, improved machines and methods have been designed and introduced. Establishment and expansion of silk filatures are also being encouraged.

(*f*) As almost all the *charka* silk produced in Bengal finds its way in the black-market, Government is not left with even the bare minimum quantity of silk for distribution amongst handloom weavers. The silk that is available is distributed through the Sole Agent, appointed by Government on the basis of the applications received from *bona fide* handloom weavers or their agents which are considered once a fortnight in the meeting of the District Controllers of Silk.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the acreage of mulberry plantation in 1943 and how much was added to that in 1944?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: So far as the acreage is concerned it was answered on the 13th December last.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the districts in which cocoons are actually being produced?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, from the acreage I find that the largest acreage is in Malda; next comes Murshidabad.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: No, no. I do not want the acreage, but my question is with regard to the production of cocoons.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the question time will soon be over and I would request you to hold over this question.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is answering.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: My information is that it is produced in Malda.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the amount of cocoon produced in Malda in 1943 and what was the amount of production in 1944?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have got the number of reelers, but information as regards the quantity of cocoons produced is not available.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the number of reelers in the district of Malda in 1943 and also in 1944?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have already answered that question in reply to the unstarred question of date.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But that has not yet been answered.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think there are two questions on the same subject, one starred and the other unstarred, but there is hardly any time left.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, Sir; they are slightly different.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Let him answer the last question, Sir

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: There are pre-war and present figures for the number of reelers there

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We do not want pre-war figures but the present

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir--

Mr. SPEAKER: Question time over and the House stands adjourned for fifteen minutes Mr Kundu, you can speak after adjournment.

(After Adjournment)

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, I gave notice of an adjournment motion for discussing a very urgent matter of singular importance, namely, assault on the security prisoners.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, I can understand your anxiety regarding the matter about which you have spoken I think you know that I have refused my consent.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I want to submit that the assault took place at 8 p.m. on the 6th of March and as a result Shri Tarapada Gupta received injury on his head You will agree, Sir, that this adjournment motion has complied with the provisions of the rules under adjournment motions. Now, Sir, this cannot wait for a single day because this is the fourth time that an assault has been made on the security prisoners.

Mr. SPEAKER: You know that Budget discussion commences from today and "Jails" will be coming up on the 14th. Possibly you will have ample opportunity to discuss this matter on that day.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: The matter further is important in this sense that there was no reason for such assault and we have received information that two Canadian security prisoners tried to escape scaling over the walls and for their fault Indian security prisoners have been assaulted for nothing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, I fully appreciate your anxiety and also that it is a matter of vital importance. There is no question about that, but the real difficulty is we are on voting of demands for grants and as you know during voting of grants adjournment motions, as far as I know, have not been allowed. Apart from that today is the 12th and day after tomorrow you will have ample opportunity of discussing it. That is why I disallowed it.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order. The rules, as far as we know, lay down that the budget demands cannot be anticipated by an adjournment motion but that does not deprive you of fixing a time for discussion of an urgent matter which will not collide with the budget demands or demands for grants, and may I also, Sir, suggest that you consult the Hon'ble the Chief Minister who happens to be also the Minister in charge of Jails if he cannot agree to a discussion outside the range of the budget demand whether he will make a statement, if possible today, if not, tomorrow or at the earliest opportunity, clarifying the entire matter, so that the anxiety which is very grave on this matter may be allayed to some extent. It is only a matter of technicality that the matter can be discussed in the budget, but there are certain things which cannot wait even for 24 hours.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I was also going to raise the same issue. May I invite your attention that on previous occasions when matters of such grave urgency were taken note of at the request of the Opposition, the Leader of the House was pleased to make a statement with your permission even when there were debates like this going on and it is only fair, without entering into the discussion of the debate, that the Minister in charge, the Home Minister might allay public apprehension in this connection by making a statement on the circumstances under which this assault took place and how the persons assaulted are keeping. It is very essential.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Actually the relatives of the prisoners in jail are passing very anxious time.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: In this connection I would like to draw your attention to the fact that I made it absolutely clear that such questions which are of urgent nature are usually raised after question time but the procedure should be a definite one. Sometimes we want to raise questions like this, sometimes the opposition want to raise questions; and I suggested that previous notice should be given by the Leader of the Opposition or by the leader of any group, as the case may be, intending to raise a question, and if we want to do it we would inform the party leaders that such things would be discussed and then that question can be taken up, and you, Sir, have accepted the policy of either side making a statement. Today this has been raised without previous notice and as far as our information goes no Indian security prisoner has been assaulted, but I am prepared to accept a short-notice question and I will try to answer it tomorrow.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: After going to the jail.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has given assurance that he will try to ascertain the facts if a short-notice question is given. Today he cannot do that. You put a short-notice question.

I think I owe to the House to say something in regard to the decision that I promised to give today relating to the supplementary budget. I am sorry I have not been able to make myself ready, and before I give my decision I should like to consult Dr. Sanyal and Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri as well as any other member who is willing to assist me on this question because the direction is going to be a direction that will perhaps

apply for a large number of years. Consequently if is desirable that before I do so I should also consult the Finance Minister or any other member on the Government side willing to help me in this matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I also enquire how is it that there are two lists circulated and in these days of paper scarcity when we are told that even the budget has to take a restricted form we have to be circulated over again a further list. I find that in the second list larger number of motions also are included than in the former list. Is it intended that there are supplementary motions received later on which had to be included or it was only an additional list printed

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite see the point. In these days of paper scarcity we must be very careful about economy of paper. I have looked into the matter. I understand certain reduction motions were subsequently put in and they have been accepted That is why they have been included in the latest list.

Presentation of Authenticated Supplementary Schedules of Expenditure.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Mr Speaker, in pursuance of section 81 read with sub-section (2) of section 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay before the Assembly a Supplementary Schedule of authorized expenditure for 1944-45 authenticated by the signature of His Excellency the Governor under sub-section (7) of section 80 read with section 81.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is most shameful for the Governor to sign this kind of Budget.

(The Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami rose in his seat.)

Allotment of time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami, will you kindly resume your seat? I forgot to say one thing We have got three Demands today, namely, Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax, Salt and Land Revenue. We have got in all two hours time at our disposal. What I propose to do is to give 20 minutes for Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax, 20 minutes for Salt and for Land Revenue, one hour and 10 minutes as I want to keep in reserve in my hand ten minutes.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: How long do you propose to sit?

Mr. SPEAKER: Up to 7-30 p.m.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is the time for each member?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think for a cut motion 5 minutes will be enough for every honourable member.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.2,72,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.2,72,000 for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about a few lacunae in the operation of the Agricultural Income-tax Act and the Rules made thereunder.

Sir, so far as we find, the Act was passed against certain definite opinion of certain section of the House and yet, Sir, when we try to apply our mind to various anomalies we find that certain important defects remained.

The first defect to which we want the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to be drawn is this. While we decided to have tax on the previous year's income it did not occur to us that in the first year at least there was a large accumulation of arrears left over from previous years due to the bad economic condition of the country, which might be collected in 2 or 3 subsequent years. No provision has been made to examine the arrears which related to the period previous to the previous years as contemplated under the Act for purposes of taxation. I submit, Sir, that in respect of those years previous to previous years the landholder or the tenant concerned had actually spent large sums of money either from his own pocket or by borrowing or out of his own accummulated fund and he had paid the superior landlords or Government revenue and had also undertaken to meet other necessary expenses. In view of that, I submit that this lacuna should be looked into and, if necessary, Government may be pleased to suitably amend the enactment.

With regard to rules, I find various inconveniences have been caused to assessees as a result of the method that Government has adopted. The first drawback in the rules that I find is with regard to the forms recommended The forms appear to have gone beyond the schedules that are necessary for giving necessary information regarding assessability of an assessee The forms require any number of information to be given and it would be extremely difficult for an average agriculturist or a tenureholder, if not the big landholders, to obtain all the information that is required by these forms. I submit, Sir, that the information required by the forms may be minimised so as to keep Government information restricted to such requirements as are necessary for the purpose of taxation and for complying with the provisions of the law itself. It is needless to have all sorts of information which could profitably be excluded. As a student of statistics, I know, Sir, that if you increase one head you increase so much more work both in the Government office as well as in the office of the assessee.

The second thing which struck me is with regard to the time allotted for presentation of accounts. Only 30 days time has been allowed to the assessee for submission of accounts after a special notice has been issued. These 30 days surely must be regarded as too meagre, too short a period to enable any suitable accounts being drawn up, particularly where the accounts have got to be audited, and for audited accounts Government propose to give a special rate of remuneration or concession. It is impossible for any organisation to arrange audit by qualified outside auditors in so short a time. I submit that this may be looked into and a longer period be provided.

The other thing that struck me was regarding the machinery set up. The place of assessment has been defined in the Act and option has been given to the assessee either to have his returns submitted at the place of his residence or at his principal office or where the land is situated. But, Sir, there are cases in which persons having lands or estates in Dinajpur are required to submit their returns in Mymensingh; persons having their property at Faridpur have got to submit their returns at Khulna; and persons having property at Murshidabad have got to go to Rajshahi. These are lacunae which could be cured and I hope that Government will look into those defects and try to improve the position.

I would also like to know if any Bengali translation of the forms has been circulated and whether the forms are widely circulated and given publicity. I trust that Government will examine the position more carefully than has been done with regard to the lacunae and the rules.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,72,000 for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about imparting instructions to all the Agricultural Income-tax Officers and staff for treating the public properly so that they are not harassed during the preparation of list for the tax and also to print the form No. 5 in Bengali.

আমি আমার নামের মোশন move করিতেছি। এই Agricultural Income-tax আইনটি নূতন পাশ হইয়াছে। কিন্তু এযাবৎ মেম্বরগণকে তাহা দেওয়া হয় নাই। অথচ গভর্ণমেন্টের সম্মতি পাইয়া ইহা আজ কার্য্যে পরিণত হইতে চলিয়াছে। ইহাতে দেখা যায় যে এই গরীব বাংলা দেশের প্রজাদের জমির আয় হিসাবে ট্যাক্স দিতে হইবে কিন্তু সেই ইন্‌কাম ট্যাক্সের ফরমগুলি ইংরাজীতে ছাপা হইয়াছে। বাংলা দেশে ইংরাজী ফরম্ ঠিকমত বুঝিবার ও তাহা পূরণ করিবার লোক খুব কম। সেইজন্য বাংলা ভাষায় এই ফরম্ ছাপাইয়া যাহাতে দিতে পারেন তাহার ব্যবস্থা করুন। ইংরাজী ফর্ম্মে না বুঝিয়া হিসাব দিলে অনেক ভুল-ত্রুটি থাকিবার সম্ভাবনা।

ইনকাম ট্যাক্স ইণ্ডিয়া গভর্ণমেন্টের ব্যাপার। সেখানে অনেক লোককে দেখা গিয়াছে পুখুরে ট্যাক্স ধরিয়া পরে ছাড়িয়া দিয়াছে; কেননা তাহার সে যোগ্যতা নাই। আর চট্টগ্রামে ইনকাম ট্যাক্সের ব্যাপারে অনেক অত্যাচার-অবিচার হইয়া গিয়াছে। এখানে দেখা যাইতেছে এক জনের বাড়ী চট্টগ্রামে, তাহাকে হিসাব দিতে হইবে বগুড়ায় বা ময়মনসিংহে এইরূপ নির্দ্দেশ দেওয়া হইয়াছে। চট্টগ্রাম একটি কমিশনারের ডিভিশন। সেখান ছাড়িয়া ঢাকা ডিভিশনে কেন যাইতে হয় বুঝি না। চট্টগ্রামের লোকের কি ঢাকা, ময়মনসিংহ, ফরিদপুরে গিয়া হিসাব দেওয়া সম্ভব? এ যেন পাগলামির মত ব্যাপার। যখন একটা স্কীম করিয়াছেন তখন লোকের মতামত লওয়া উচিত ছিল যে কোথায় করা হইবে। আজ রেলে যাতায়াত কত কঠিন, তাহাতে এক ডিভিশন হইতে অন্য ডিভিশনে যাওয়া যে কত কষ্টকর তাহা সকলেই বুঝিতে পারেন। আশা করি ইহার পর যে বিভাগ সেই বিভাগে বা যে জেলা সেই জেলায় দিবার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন। আর তা ছাড়া যেসব অফিসার আনিয়াছেন সব নিজের দলের সাজোপাঙ্গ লোক। কিন্তু এইভাবে কাজ চালাইলে বাংলা দেশের লোক বেশীদিন সহ্য করিবে না। (Cries of hear, hear) চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগে বা উত্তর বঙ্গে বা পশ্চিম বঙ্গে কি লোক ছিল না? সবই দেখিতেছি ঢাকা ডিভিশনের অফিসার হইয়াছে। ইহাকে কি ন্যায়সঙ্গত কাজ বলিতে পারেন?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.2,72,000 for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" be reduced by Rs.100, in order to raise a discussion about Government's failure to formulate a plan and programme for productive investment of the resources made and to be made available by the Bengal Agricultural Income-Tax Act, 1944.

Sir, it is well known that when the Land Revenue Commission recommended on the basis of a general desire of the people that as a transitional measure towards nationalisation of land there should be imposition of a tax upon agricultural income it was understood that these resources made available by this tax would be made available for adding nutrition to the land and to make the land more productive of wealth. It was never suspected, it was never contemplated that this reserve energy of the nation should be utilised or rather frittered away for purposes of revenue demand of the day to day administration of the Government. Sir, land has been long neglected and agriculture has been kept in the cold storage ever since the inception of the British Government. And with the progress of public opinion there has been increasing pressure based upon public demand that agriculture should receive the foremost attention of the State so that people, the vast majority of the people of this agricultural country who live upon land could come out of the mire of proverty. Sir, at the time when this Bill came up we discussed it on the floor of the House and among the various objections raised by us it was our principal objection that only to meet the demands of the provincial revenues of the day to day administration which has increased manifold by war emergencies if the resources made available

from this tax were spent, the reserve energy of the nation would be frittered away. *General Administration is a bottomless pit, the more so when the war has practically thrown the entire Provincial Government out of gear.* If we are to stand by land and if we are to improve and to see our posterity really improves then it is our business to see that there is planning behind agrcultural problems and that the money which is now made available is spent for the solution of these problems. Sir, the land is the hen that lays the golden eggs and if it is to lay the golden eggs it has to be given sustenance and nutrition. What has been the result? Today the income that is available and the tax made upon the income available to Government is their artificial income resulting from inflation and war time special conditions. But, Sir, if after the war agriculture goes back to its own old unfortunate condition what will be the position? The position will be that land will go back to cold storage and people will go back to proverty. If this is to be remedied it is our demand and desire that the money which is collected out of this source should be earmarked for the improvement of the soil, for the improvement of the quality of crops, for the cultivation of money vegetables and money food which may be not only useful for Government and people here but will find its way into markets outside this country.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, I shall attempt within the short time at my disposal to answer the objections raised by honourable members. As regards the form of the returns I shall again examine them in the light of the observations made by honourable members. I may say that several honourable members were kind enough to make suggestions to me and that I have on more than one occasion discussed the rules with them in the presence of the Commissioner of Agricultural Income-Tax and if we do find that any improvement has to be made we shall certainly do so. As regards the point raised by Dr. Sanyal that in computing the income of the year 1943-44 we should not take into account the collection of arrear rents I submit that that matter was sufficiently discussed on the floor of this House and that contention was rejected by this House; so, that does not arise now. As regards the place of assessment if there have been any serious irregularities I shall be very grateful to hear about them and I shall take steps to remedy the inconvenience, if any The fact is that assessees have been given the option of having their incomes assessed either at some cutchery or at their place of residence. I do not know if any anomalies have taken place. We have just embarked on taxation on agricultural income. It is a new step in Bengal and it is extremely likely in the first year of the administration of that Act that many inconveniences will be experienced and in the light of the experience that we have gained we shall see that the present procedure will be revised.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: What about more time to be given to the assessees?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: As regards time I cannot say off-hand because the Act lays down certain provisions.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Under the rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: As regards the rules I shall consider the suggestion that has been made in the House relating to first assessment. As regards the forms being supplied in Bengali I do not know whether forms have not been supplied in Bengali. If that is so, I must take that into account and if it is a fact that no Bengali form is available I think that is a defect and must be remedied.

As regards earmarking the proceeds of the tax that matter has been discussed threadbare on the floor of the House. I shall resist earmarking of any item of revenue as long as I can. It is bad finance; besides, the Agriculture budget has expanded very considerably during the last two

years and it is extremely unlikely that the Agriculture budget in future years will contract to the invisible form in which it was presented in previous years. If you take into account those items in the Irrigation budget which must be recorded as new projects you will find that the total amounts that Government has spent in the present year and the coming year are considerably more than what the province ever spent in the course of the last ten years.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs.2,72,000 for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about Government's failure to formulate a plan and programme for productive investment of the resources made and to be made available by the Bengal Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1944, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs.2,72,000 for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about imparting instructions to all the Agricultural Income-tax Officers and staff for treating the public properly so that they are not harassed during the preparation of list for the tax and also to print the form No. 5 in Bengali was then put and lost

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs.2,72,000 for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about a few lacunae in the operation of the Agricultural Income-tax Act and the Rules made thereunder was then put and lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury moved only this one reduction motion which I have put to the House because that was the only one that was selected. I could not quite follow him when he was speaking and while he was making his observations.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami that a sum of Rs.2,72,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax" was then put and agreed to.

5—Salt.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.57,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "5—Salt".

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.57,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the necessity of giving adequate pecuniary help as well as equipments, viz., iron, pan, etc., to the people of salt-watered places to manufacture sufficient salt for making Bengal self-sufficient in this state of acute shortage of salt.

স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমার নামের cut motion আমি move করিতেছি :

এই বিষয় নিয়ে আমি দুই বৎসর যাবৎ গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বলছি কিন্তু এ পর্যন্ত তাহার কোন ফল হয় নাই ; কাজেই লোকে বলে "কানে দিয়েছি তুলো—যত ইচ্ছে বলুক"। এই ব্যাপার হয়েছে। ন্যায়ের কথা বলা কেন যে তাঁরা শুনতে চান না, তা আমি বুঝতে পারি না।

যে সমস্ত গরীব জনসাধারণ বাংলা দেশে লবণ উৎপন্ন করে তাহাদিগকে লবণ তৈরী করিবার নিমিত্ত সুযোগ সুবিধা ও iron pan দিবার ব্যবস্থা করা হউক। Iron pan বাজারে পাইবার সম্ভাবনা নাই--কারণ উহা বাজারে বিক্রয় বন্ধ হইয়া গিয়াছে। এমন কি মাটির হাঁড়ি দিয়া যে লবণ তৈরী হয়, তাহাও দুর্মূল্য হইয়াছে। আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে অনুরোধ করি যে, বাংলা দেশে লবণ areaতে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ আর্থিক সাহায্য ও লবণ প্রস্তুতের নিমিত্ত iron pan দিবার অতি সত্বর ব্যবস্থা করুন। আমি এই সম্পর্কে আরও দু-একটি কথার উল্লেখ করতে চাই। যে সমস্ত লবণ area গভর্ণমেণ্ট খুলেছেন, সেখানে লবণ প্রস্তুত করা এবং লবণ আমদানী করবার

জন্য monopoly right হিসাবে একটা জেলাতে একজন মাত্র লোককে agency দেওয়া হইয়াছে। ইহার দ্বারা বাংলা দেশে লবণের black marketএর ব্যবস্থা নিশ্চয়ই করেছেন। একজন মাত্র Agentএর হাতে সমুদয় ভার দেওয়ার ফলেই এই black market সৃষ্টি হ'য়েছে। এই বিষয়টা নিয়ে গতকল্য মোহাম্মদ আলি পার্কের জনসভায় আলোচিত হইয়াছে। সমস্ত জেলায় লবণ বিতরণ করা একজন মাত্র Agentএর পক্ষে কি সম্ভব? আমি অনুরোধ করি এইভাবে একটা ডিষ্ট্রীক্টএ একজন মাত্র এজেন্ট নিযুক্ত না করিয়া প্রত্যেক থানা থেকে একজন করিয়া এজেন্ট select করিয়া তাহাদের উপর লবণ সরবরাহ ও বিতরণের ভার দেওয়া হোক। সে আপনাদের দলের লোক হইলেও ক্ষতি নাই। কিন্তু, এই রকমভাবে একজন মাত্র এজেন্টকে monopoly right দিয়ে দেশের লোককে মারবেন না।

লবণের warehouse দিয়ে প্রদেশে আরও অসুবিধা সৃষ্টি করেছে। জনাবশ্যক, অত্যধিক সংখ্যক লবণের warehouse হ্রাস করিয়া, প্রত্যেক subdivisionএর লবণ area মাত্র একটি করিয়া salt warehouse রাখিবার ব্যবস্থা করুন। এবং বেশী পরিমাণে লবণ উৎপন্ন করিয়া যাহাতে গভর্ণমেণ্টের আয় বৃদ্ধি হয় তাহার ব্যবস্থা করুন।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.57,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in allowing minimum price of Rs.2 only per maund to the manufacturers of salt by cottage industry in the districts of Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Chittagong, Noakhali and Bakarganj while the controlled price of salt in those districts is Rs.10 per maund.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will find from the Red Book, page 38, that there are 17 warehouses in the districts of Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Chittagong, Noakhali and Bakarganj and salt will be collected in those warehouses from cottage workers who will be paid a minimum price of Rs.2 per maund.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in these districts, especially in the districts of Chittagong Division, retail price of salt is Rs 10 per maund, and there is absolutely no reason why the manufacturer of salt will be paid such a minimum price of Rs.2 per maund Having fixed the retail price of salt at Rs.10 per maund in the proximity of salt-producing areas there is no justification to fix the minimum price to be paid to cottage workers at the rate of Rs.2 per maund. You will find from the Red Book, page 13, that the only payment that Government has to make is at the rate of three annas per maund of salt collected by agents in charge of warehouses established in the coastal districts of the porvince in pursuance of the scheme for the development of salt manufacture as a cottage industry. If we take all these into consideration there is absolutely no reason to give the cottage manufacturers only Rs.2 per maund of salt. The history of the development of salt as a cottage industry is well known to all of us and a certain amount is spent by the Government of India through the Government of Bengal for the development of salt industry. Here in Bengal there are certain coastal districts where if salt is properly manufactured Bengal need not be dependent on the other provinces or on the other countries. So far as Bengal is concerned, she is dependant upon Bombay and specially upon a province beyond India, viz., Aden. If the Government take steps to develop the salt industry so far as the coastal districts are concerned, there is absolutely no reason why Bengal herself should not be self-sufficient. Government have not taken any steps in the past. As a matter of fact, after the Gandhi-Irwin pact in the year 1931, the manufacture of the cottage industry really developed to a certain extent. After that a certain amount was paid by the Government of India to the Bengal Government for the development of the salt industry but that amount has not been utilised. I know certain friends of mine tried to start a company for the purpose of the development of the salt industry. This was sought to be done in the Chittagong Division as well as in Midnapore but Government did not come forward to help them. Government have failed in their duties in the past and also in the present and, as a result, salt is not manufactured properly and the province of Bengal has to be dependant on other provinces for the supply of salt.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to the notice——(The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Is he moving his cut motion?) I am speaking generally though I had a cut motion No. 27. I will speak generally for three minutes. I do not know why the Minister-in-charge has become nervous in anticipation. This House is entitled to know from him the method which is employed by his department for securing supply. We have very reliable information that the Government is buying from a monopolist who secures the supply at Naupada from the Salt Merchants Association. The supply is made at the rate of Rs.9-5, the cost of landing this thing is about Re.1-1 and after keeping his profit, he sells to the Bengal Government at the rate of Rs.12-8. The House ought to be told why the Government does not obtain the supply from the Naupada Salt Merchants Association who are prepared to supply at the same rate at which this monopolist of the Government gets the supply and who are prepared to land salt in Bengal at a rate which is at least Rs.2-8 lower than what the Government is paying. This is one point of information regarding which I hope the Hon'ble Minister will take the House into confidence and explain it.

The other point that I want to emphasize is that the Department is not taking active steps to increase the supply of indigenously manufactured salt in all the coastal areas of Bengal. I do not want to take more time because that point has been emphasized by others

Sir, I particularly want to know why we are paying a higher rate to a monopolist when salt is available at a lower rate. I can assure him that merchants are ready to reach salt in the interior districts of the province of Bengal at a cost of Rs.11. I have come to know this from many merchants who are substantial people and who have said that they are prepared to do it

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Sir, Government has evolved a scheme and has spent Rs.31,000 for 1943-44, Rs.44,000 for 1944-45 and allotted Rs.57,000 for 1945-46. The scheme is very poor and inadequate. We urge the Government of Bengal to develop this as cottage industry in the coastal areas of the province on a large scale and not to localise it in a few places. There is no need of experiment. The experiment has already been done and proved a success. This will solve the acute shortage of imported salt on the one hand and it will open a new vista to the thousands of poor labourers in the coastal areas to eke out their livelihood.

Sir, we do not oppose the levy of the India Government duty. We are quite prepared to pay it but what we do want is a permanent source of income to the poor labourer by producing salt on commercial line and thus meet the demand of Bengal at least, if not of other provinces, at this crisis. If this is widely spread, within a month thousands of tons of salt will pour into the markets and remove our want. When we get abundant resources, we cannot make out what are insurmountable difficulties in our way of manufacturing it. It is very easy to manufacture it at a very small initial cost which the labourer can meet.

In this connection I like to give some idea about the scheme evolved by the Government. From the reply of the Hon'ble Minister of Industries to Unstarred Question No. 38, dated 17th February, 1944, it appears that 4 new warehouses have been erected and officers for the purpose appointed in the district of Chittagong in addition to Midnapore and 24-Parganas. The explanatory memorandum on the Budget for 1945-46, page 38, note under Grant No. 2, shows that this is an experimental scheme for the development of salt manufacture as a cottage industry. The note further shows that a minimum price of Rs.2 per maund has been fixed for manufacturer. The Hon'ble Minister also stated in his reply to the said Unstarred Question that at the time of delivery from warehouses the Central Government duty

at the rate of Rs.1-9 per maund and the Local Government dues at 3 annas per maund are to be paid. In all with a duty of Rs.1-12 per maund plus labour charges of Rs.2, the cost comes to Rs.3-12 per maund but the retail price in the market is Rs.7-8 per maund. The difference is Rs.3-12 and this is the margin for the sole agents and merchants. This is not fair and equitable. The poor labourers will be victimized and will never be paid more than the minimum rate. Having regard to the cost of fire wood, labour for collection of saline soil and various process in the manufacture, the minimum rate of Rs.2 per maund for the manufacturer is not at all commensurate with the selling price fixed. It will not give him living wages at this critical time. In order to solve the problem of immediate shortage of foreign salt, my proposal is that the Bengal Government should immediately move the Central Government to suspend the application of Salt Act in Bengal for the duration of the war so that there may be free flow of supply of salt in Bengal.

I appreciate Government's proposal to pay Rs.16 lakhs as subsidy to the Bengal Sugar Mills to enable them to pay economic prices to the cane-growers which has not been utilised for 1944-45 but 8 lakhs estimated for 1945-46 to meet the possible claims. I would suggest that on this line Government should immediately allot a similar amount for the development and expansion of salt manufacture as a cottage industry by paying Re.1 per maund as subsidy to meet high prices of fuels. What I want immediately are these: to start at once large number of warehouses all along the coastal areas of Bengal and to employ necessary staff; to fix the manufacturing cost of salt at Rs.4 per maund including the cost of delivering to the warehouses by the manufacturers and pay Re.1 in addition to Rs.4 per maund as subsidy—total Rs.5 to be paid per maund; to buy up all the salt manufactured within the jurisdiction of each warehouse and abolish the system of appointing agents as the staff could do the work of purchasing very easily; they get sufficient time to do this; to fix by Government the retail sale price at 3 annas per seer or Rs.7-8 per maund; to help the manufacturers with boiling pans free of cost; not to close down the existing warehouses during the rainy season but to keep them running throughout the year with increasing numbers; to invest money with the warehouse officers to purchase salt at cash price.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, when my friend Mr. Gupta got up to speak, I said that he was speaking without any knowledge on the subject, and I was correct because after listening to his speech, I am surprised that after long experience in this House he even does not realise that the supply question is not dealt with by my Department. The question of the supply of salt is entirely dealt with by the Civil Supplies Department and the point that he was referring to is entirely a charge on the Civil Supplies Department, and not on the Industries Department. (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: I know all that.)

Now I would refer to the points raised by Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury. I do not know from where the Haji Sahib has got this idea that monopoly has been given in the manufacture of salt in Chittagong. It is entirely incorrect. On the other hand, there are a number of warehouses and for each warehouse an agent in charge is being appointed. So there is no question of monopoly of the manufacture of salt in that area.

Now, Sir, I would just give the House an idea as to the steps that have been taken by the Government to increase the manufacture of cottage salt during the last two years. In 1943 there were only 4 or 5 warehouses. Since then the number of warehouses has been increased. In 1944 it was 11, and this year we have added 6 more warehouses—4 in Chittagong, 1 in Barisal and 1 in Noakhali; so that we have increased the number of warehouses from 11 to 17.

My friends Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta and other members have referred to the low minimum price. My attention was drawn to this low minimum

price by the members of my party, especially by Khan Bahadur Maulvi Fazlul Quadir, and Khan Bahadur Jasimuddin Ahmed. I went into the question and the minimum has been raised from Rs.2 to Rs.3 in Midnapore and 24-Parganas, Rs.3-8 in Barisal, and Rs.4 in Chittagong and Noakhali. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why this differential treatment?) This has been done after taking into consideration various factors and conditions that prevail in the manufacture of salt in particular areas.

Government are taking all possible steps to increase the manufacture of salt on cottage basis. Sir, I have almost finished. We have appointed a Special Salt Officer to give advice to the cottage manufacturers. As far as the factory manufacturers of salt are concerned, we advertised for the appointment of a Special Officer, but unfortunately the Public Service Commission has informed us that no suitable candidate would be available. We have received the report of the Industrial Sub-Committee on Salt, and we are taking all steps to implement the recommendations of that Sub-Committee.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs.57,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discusion about the necessity of giving adequate pecuniary help as well as equipments, viz., iron pan, etc., to the people of salt-watered places to manufacture sufficient salt for making Bengal self-sufficient in this state of acute shortage of salt, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs.57,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in allowing minimum price of Rs.2 only per maund to the manufacturers of salt by cottage industry in the districts of Midnapur, 24-Parganas, Chittagong, Noakhali and Bakarganj while the controlled price of salt in those districts is Rs.10 per maund, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin that a sum of Rs.57,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" was then put and agreed to.

7—Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.36,44,100 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue".

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.36,44,100 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the necessity of making early legislation for removing the miserable condition of the tillers of the soil in the Sundarbans area.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, বাংলা দেশের সুন্দরবন অঞ্চল অর্থাৎ ২৪-পরগণা, খুলনা ও বরিশালের দক্ষিণ অংশ পূর্বে জঙ্গলে আবৃত ছিল। তারপরে সুন্দরবনের কিছু অংশ পরিষ্কার করিয়া চাষের উপযোগী করা হইয়াছিল এবং সেই সঙ্গে প্রজা পত্তন করা হইয়াছিল। যখন এই সুন্দরবনে প্রজা বসান হয় তখন পর্যন্ত দক্ষিণ সমুদ্রের জোয়ারের জলের পলিমাটিতে এই সুন্দরবনের জমি ক্রমশঃ উচ্চ হইতেছিল। তখনও পর্যন্ত জোয়ারের জল নদীগর্ভ ছাড়িয়া ঐ নদীর পার্শ্ববর্তী জমি প্লাবিত করিত। সেই সময় আর অপেক্ষা না করিয়া জঙ্গলগুলি পরিষ্কার করিয়া চাষ-আবাদ আরম্ভ করান হয়। এবং জোয়ারের লবণাক্ত জলে পার্শ্ববর্তী জমির ফসল নষ্ট করিতে পারে এই ভয়ে নদীতীরে বাঁধ দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছিল। যখন এই নদীর ধার বাঁধ দিয়া ফসল উৎপন্ন হইতেছিল, তখন প্রাকৃতিক কারণে সেই বাঁধ পর পর উঁচু করা হইতেছিল। লবণাক্ত জল বাংলা দেশের চাষের পক্ষে পরম শত্রু; সুন্দরবন ব্যতীত বাংলার অন্য কোন জায়গায় এই শত্রুর সম্মুখীন হইতে হয় না। সুন্দরবন অঞ্চলের কৃষি-ফসল একমাত্র ধান। ঐ লবণাক্ত জল ধান-গাছের ভীষণ শত্রু এবং তার প্রতিরোধক ঐ নদী ধারের বাঁধ। পূর্বেই বলিয়াছি যে বাঁধ পর পর উঁচু করা হইতেছিল এবং কালক্রমে ঐ বাঁধ রক্ষা করা

একপ্রকার দুঃসাধ্য হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। এইজন্য এখন প্রায়ই দেখিতে পাই মাঝে মাঝে ঐ বাঁধ ভাঙ্গিয়া নদীর লবণাক্ত জল ক্ষেতে প্রবেশ করে এবং ফসল নষ্ট করে। এই একমাত্র ফসল নষ্ট হওয়ায় ঐ অঞ্চলের পল্লীবাসীর মধ্যে এবং কৃষকদের মধ্যে অন্নাভাব দেখা দেয়।

সুন্দরবন অঞ্চলের বসতি বাংলার অন্য অঞ্চল অপেক্ষা একটু নূতন ধরণের। বাংলার সব জায়গায় ঘন বসতি, কিন্তু সেখানে বাড়ীগুলো খুব তফাৎ তফাৎ। সাবডিভিশন্যাল হেডকোয়ার্টার থেকে কোন কোন স্থানে সেই সাবডিভিশনের শেষ ভাগ ৫০ মাইলেরও অধিক; এমন কি থানার সদর থেকেও ৩০ মাইল দূরে সেই থানায় গ্রাম আছে। এই গ্রামে যে সমস্ত লোক আছে মহকুমা এবং থানার সদর শহরের সুবিধা তাঁহারা ভোগ করিতে পারেন না। দেশে-দেশে চোর-ডাকাত দমন করার জন্য থানার পুলিশ অফিসার রাখা হয় কিন্তু থানা হেডকোয়ার্টার থেকে এই সব গ্রাম অত্যন্ত দূরে অবস্থিত বলিয়া তাহার সুবিধা এই গ্রামবাসিসমূহ ভোগ করিতে পারে না। আবার সেই গ্রাম থেকে থানায় বা মহকুমা শহরে আসিবার সুবিধাজনক কোন পথ নাই। এই অঞ্চলে একমাত্র পথ নদীপথ। সেই পথও খুব বিপদ্‌জনক। থানা সদর হইতে গ্রামগুলি দূরে দূরে অবস্থিত থাকায় সেখানকার চোর-দস্যু দমন করা কঠিন। এই যে দুরবস্থা ইহা দেখিলে মনে হয় যে ইহারা যেন ব্রিটিশ গভর্ণমেণ্টের শাসনের অধীন নহে। এইজন্য আমি প্রস্তাব করিতেছি যে ইহাদের উন্নতি করিতে গেলে, ঐ গ্রামসমূহকে সুশাসন করিতে গেলে বর্ত্তমানে যে আইন আছে সেই আইনে হইতে পারে না। কেননা, আমি পূর্ব্বেই বলিয়াছি বাংলার অন্য জায়গা হইতে এখানকার জমির কৃষিভূমির অবস্থা এবং বসতির অবস্থা একটু ভিন্ন ধরণের। সেইজন্য এই সুন্দরবনের উন্নতি করিতে হইলে গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে অন্যভাবে নূতন আইন প্রণয়ন করা বিশেষ আবশ্যক।

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.36,44,100 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government for the realisation of Government loans in flood, typhoon and cyclone affected areas of Contai and Tamluk in the district of Midnapore.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs.36,44,100 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in realising Khasmahal rents and rents of estates managed by Court of Wards and revenues from the permanently-settled estates by the application of Sunset law and other stringent methods in the flood, typhoon and cyclone affected areas of Contai and Tamluk and other subdivisions of Midnapore district.

মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, আমার বলবার উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে যে, বাংলা দেশের দুর্ভিক্ষ এবং নানা রকম দুর্গতির সঙ্গে সঙ্গে মেদিনীপুরে যে দুর্গতি এসেছিল তার একটা বৈশিষ্ট্য ছিল এই যে, সমুদ্রের ধারে যে বাঁধ ছিল সেই বাঁধ ভেঙ্গে গিয়ে প্রায় ৩৭ থেকে ৪০ ফুট উঁচু সামুদ্রিক বন্যা পর পর তিনবার এসে সমুদ্রকূলবর্ত্তী অনেক অংশ একেবারে ভাসিয়ে দিয়ে যায়। তার ফলে সমস্ত জায়গা লোনা জলে ভরে গিয়েছিল। তাতে বহু লোক মারা যায়, গরু-বাছুর মারা যায় ও লোকের ঘর-দুয়ার নষ্ট হয়। বহু লোকের সঞ্চিত টাকাকড়ি ও জিনিষপত্র সব নষ্ট হয়ে যায়। তারপরে ১৯৪৩ সালে আর একটা বন্যা হয়। উত্তর দিক থেকে কেলেঘাই এবং দক্ষিণ দিক থেকে সুবর্ণরেখা এই দুই নদীর জল এসে সমস্ত শহর ভাসিয়ে নিয়ে যায়। সেটার গভর্ণমেণ্ট নাম দিয়েছেন August flood. বাস্তবিকই সেই floodটা august ছিল। কারণ আগে কেলেঘাইয়ের যে বন্যা হয়েছিল তাতে এক জায়গায়ই বাঁধ ভাঙ্গত; কিন্তু এবার ১৯৪৩ সালে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যখন প্রায় চার লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করে ভাল করে বাঁধ তৈরী করলেন তখন তিন জায়গায় বাঁধ ভেঙ্গে গেল। এটা খুব expert opinionএর দ্বারা গঠিত হয়েছিল। আলিবন্ধন বরাবরই এক জায়গায় ভাঙ্গত, কিন্তু এই scheme কার্য্যে পরিণত করবার পর এখন তিনটা জায়গায় বাঁধ ভেঙ্গে ভাসিয়ে নিয়ে গিয়েছে। তাতে ফল হ'ল এই, গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে বীজধান বিতরণ করেছিল—সেটা খুব দেরীতে দেওয়া হয় এবং ধানগুলি বড় লোকের গোলা থেকে আনিয়ে দেওয়া হয়—এবং সেই ধানগুলি বহু দিন ধরিয়া বড় লোকের গোলায় তালা-বন্ধ অবস্থায় থাকার ফলে, বীজধানের উপযুক্ততা নষ্ট হয়। কারণ বীজধান করিতে গেলে তাকে পূর্ব্বে শুকিয়ে রাখতে হয়। সেই ধানে আগাছা, বরফ, ধুলা ও আবর্জনা মিশ্রিত ছিল। সুতরাং ঐ ধান ভাল করে germinate করলো না। যেটুকু germinate করেছিল সেটুকু ১৯৪৩ August floodএ তার সমস্ত seedling নষ্ট হয়ে গেল। কাজেই ইং ১৯৪৩ সালে অর্থাৎ বাং ১৩৫০ সালে ভাল ফসল হ'ল না। ইং ১৯৪২ সালে অর্থাৎ বাং ১৩৪৯ সে বন্যাবাত্যা এবং ১৩৫০ সালে কেলেঘাই ও সুবর্ণরেখার বন্যা হয়। কাজেই ইং ১৯৪৪ সালে সেখানকার অধিবাসিগণ একটিমাত্র ফসল পেয়েছে। এবং সেই ফসল পাইবার পর গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাঁদের সমস্ত due আদায় করবার চেষ্টা করছেন।

গভর্ণমেণ্ট দেনা দিয়েছিলেন অনেক প্রকারের। ১৯৪৩ সালে seed loan দিয়েছিলেন, গরু খরিদ করিবার এবং ঘর তৈরী করবার টাকা loan দিয়েছিলেন, চিকিৎসা ব্যবসায়ের জন্য অনেক প্রকারের টাকা ধার দিয়েছিলেন, এবং অনেককে gratuitous helpও কিছু কিছু দিয়েছিলেন। কিন্তু সেই সব টাকা তাদের হাতে পেঁাচেছে কি না সন্দেহ। অনেক উচ্চপদস্থ কর্মচারিগণ একথা স্বীকার করেছেন যে লক্ষ লক্ষ হাজার হাজার টাকা চুরি হয়ে গিয়েছে। আমি তাঁদের বলছি—I see no non-official in the hajat but I see some official in the hajat for defalcating Government fund. যাই হোক আমি সেইজন্য কারও সঙ্গে ঝগড়া করতে চাই না—কারও বিরুদ্ধে আমার কোন অভিযোগ নেই। এই অবস্থায় যদি সমস্ত টাকাটা গরীবের pocketএ যেতো তাহলে বোধ হয় আজকে তাদের এত কষ্ট, দুর্গতি হ'ত না। তখন চালের দর ছিল টাকায় এক সের মাত্র। এবং গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাহাদিগকে টাকা দিয়ে সাহায্য করলেও তাহা যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে দিতে পারেনি। এবং যা টাকা দিয়েছিল সেটা ভালভাবে, regular dole হিসাবে দিতে পারেনি। যা সাত দিনে দেবার কথা সেটা ১৮।১৯ দিনে দেওয়া হয়েছে। Gruel kitchen খুলেও আবার সেটাকে বন্ধ করে দিয়েছিলেন। এই অবস্থা ১৯৪৩ সালে হয়ে যাবার পর যখন ১৯৪৪ সালে তারা একটিমাত্র ফসল পেয়েছে, তখন গভর্ণমেণ্টের তহশীলদার একটা Sunset Law দ্বারা খাজনা আদায় করতে চেষ্টা করলো। কেউ খাজনা দিলো, কেউ একেবারেই দিতে পারেনি। আবার যেমনি December মাস গিয়ে Januaryতে পড়ল অমনি একজন Revenue Officer এক দল লোক নিয়ে সেখানে উপস্থিত হ'ল—

(At this stage there was Red Light.)

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL : স্যার, আমি চার বছর পরে বক্তৃতা করছি। আমাকে আরও পাঁচ মিনিট সময় দিলে ভাল হয়।

Mr. SPEAKER : I allow you three minutes more.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL : এই দুরবস্থায় গভর্ণমেণ্ট অনেক টাকা loan দিয়েছিলেন এবং বহু টাকা গ্রামবাসীদের জন্য খরচ করেছেন। এটা তাদের পক্ষে খুব মঙ্গলজনক। কিন্তু, আমি বলতে চাচ্ছি যে গত তিন বছরের মধ্যে চাষীরা মাত্র একটি ফসল পেয়েছে। এবং এই এক বছরের ফসলের উপর যদি গত তিন সালের কিস্তির টাকা এবং খাজনা আদায় করতে চান তাহা হইলে চাষীদের বড়ই অসুবিধা হয়। কারণ যেসব চাষী তিন, চার, পাঁচ কিম্বা দশ বিঘা মাত্র জমি চাষ করে তাঁদের পক্ষে এটা দেওয়া একেবারে অসম্ভব। যে সমস্ত মেম্বর সাধারণের ভোট নিয়ে এখানে এসেছেন তাঁদের বাড়ী শহরে থাকলেও মফঃস্বলের কথা যতটুকু জানেন তাতে নিশ্চয়ই বুঝতে পারেন যে একজন সাধারণ কৃষকের পক্ষে, তার এক বছরের ফসল থেকে, সমস্ত খাজনা ও ঋণের টাকা মিটাইয়া দিয়া, নিজের পরিবার প্রতিপালন করা কঠিন ব্যাপার। আজ এদের ঘর নেই, স্ত্রী-পুত্র মারা গিয়েছে--ম্যালেরিয়া, কলেরা রোগে ভুগেছে, এক ফোঁটা ঔষধ পর্য্যন্ত পায়নি। গত floodএর জন্য বহুদিন যাবৎ sweet water পর্য্যন্ত পায়নি। যাঁরা সুন্দরবনের খবর রাখেন, তাঁরা জানেন যে গত flood-এর সময় এই সমস্ত এলাকায় প্রত্যেকটি পুকুরে মৃত গরু, মানুষ পচে পানীয় জল একেবারে নষ্ট হয়ে গিয়েছিল। হিন্দু, মুসলমান বহু লোক মারা গিয়েছিল, কিন্তু হিন্দুকে দাহ বা মুসলমানকে কবর দেওয়া হয়নি--তাদের গলায় দড়ি দিয়ে টেনে এনে জলে ফেলে দেওয়া হয়েছিল।

এ বছর তারা একটা ফসল পেয়েছে, এবং যেই স্বস্তি ও শান্তির মুখ দেখে একটু হাসতে আরম্ভ করেছে অমনি গভর্ণমেণ্টের revenue ও অন্যান্য অফিসরগণ Sunset Law ও নানাবিধ উপায়, কর ও অন্যান্য dues আদায় করবার জন্য তাদের উপর গিয়ে পড়েন।

আমি তাদের প্রতিনিধি হ'য়ে এই হাউসে রয়েছি, এবং চিঠিপত্র দ্বারা যা কিছু সংবাদ তাদের কাছ থেকে পাই, সেইটা গভর্ণমেণ্টকে জানাই। সেখানে personally গিয়ে যে তাদের অভাব-অভিযোগের কথা শুনে আসবো তার উপায় নেই। কারণ আড়াই বছর হ'ল জেল থেকে বেরিয়ে এসেছি এবং তারপর থেকে বরাবরই কলকাতায় আছি। আমার উপর গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে restriction order আছে, সেই জন্য আমি বাড়ী যেতে পারছি না। আমার বাড়ী সমুদ্রের অতি নিকটে, এবং গতবার বন্যার হাত হইতে আমার স্ত্রী-পুত্র, কন্যা বহু কষ্টে রক্ষা পেয়েছে। আমি বিশেষভাবে জানি, এখানকার অধিবাসিবৃন্দ তাদের ঘর-দুয়ার হারিয়ে কিভাবে দিন কাটাচ্ছে।

গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট হইতে কতকগুলি প্রতিকার চাওয়া হয়েছে। সমস্ত দেনার জন্য তারা কিছু সময় চেয়েছে। ১৯৪৩ সালে ফসল হয়নি সুতরাং ১৯৪৩ সালে যে বীজধান গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে ধার দেওয়া হয়েছিল, সেটা

ছেড়ে দেওয়া হোক। ১৯৪৪ সালে ঘর নির্মাণ করবার জন্য যে টাকা loan দেওয়া হয়েছিল, সেই টাকা তারা ঘর নির্মাণ কার্য্যে লাগাইতে পারে নাই। তার কারণ, বাঁশ, কাঠ, দড়ি, খড় ইত্যাদি উপকরণ অতিশয় দুর্মূল্য ছিল। এবং ইহা সংগ্রহ করাও অত্যন্ত কঠিন ব্যাপার ছিল। এই অবস্থায় তারা সেই loanএর টাকা ঘরের কার্য্যে লাগাতে পারে নাই--তাতে তারা চাল কিনে খেয়েছে। আমি এই দিকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চাই এবং বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করছি তাঁরা যেন এই সকল অসহায়, দুঃস্থ ব্যক্তিদের কথা বিবেচনা করে তারা যে relief চাইছে তার ব্যবস্থা করেন।

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.36,44,100 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to relieve the fishermen community of varied and excessive taxation and other impositions that weigh on them heavily.

Sir, it is known that the lot of the fishermen community is one of the hardest in this province. This community is one of the many who have been hard hit by the economic crisis that has overtaken the province. Thousands and thousands of them have died for want of a morsel of food; thousands and thousands are dying of preventible diseases for want of necessary medicines. The miserable survivors having no fishing nets, boats and other implements of their trade are at a loss as to how to earn a living; they are dying inch by inch. The need of the moment is to give these people some sort of gratuitous relief and restart them in life by supplying them fishing implements and other necessities of their trade. But that is not enough.

The real problem of a continuing nature is that of taxation of a varied and excessive nature which calls for a reduction and reform. In representing the case of the fishermen in this respect I cannot do better than read out a letter which was addressed to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister on the 10th February, 1944, by an indefatigable social and political worker of Dacca, of the name of Sj. Jnanendra Nath Das, Secretary of the Padma Matsyajibi Samiti, Malekanda, Dacca from his present address which, thanks to Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin's Government, is the Security Prisoners' Cell, Dacca Central Jail.

The letter runs as follows:—

"With reference to your Department Memo. of the 18th August, 1943, I again draw your attention to the problems of fishermen, particularly to taxation, in view of the information received that the Government contemplate some kind of positive action during the current session of the legislature. Needless to say that the grievances have been accumulating and intensifying year by year and constitute a veritable scandal.

At the present moment four varieties of taxation are current:—

(*i*) '*Zibati*' (permanent and hereditary tax) which corresponds to the *jote* rent paid by tenants on land;

(*ii*) '*Bhasan*' or seasonal tax levied on professional fishermen during the '*hilsha*' season;

(*iii*) '*Tola*' or a toll at the rate of 3 pies per *hilsha* fish sold to *beparis* and collected through the latter; and

(*iv*) '*Bhag*' or a portion varying from 7 annas to 10 annas of the catch in respect of fish other than '*hilsha*'.

Rates of all these varieties of tax (with the exception of '*tola*') vary from (*a*) fishery to fishery, (*b*) individual to individual, and (*c*) year to year. This has introduced anarchy in the fisheries, the fishers falling victims to all kinds of extortionist zulum. The '*tola*' is a recent imposition. The influx of a large number of casual fishermen who do not pay either '*Zibati*' or '*Bhasan*' during the '*hilsha*' season has obviously led to this form of

taxation. But the professional fishermen also are adversely affected. The '*beparis*' deduct a pice for each fish from all not excluding professional fishermen who have therefore to pay three kinds of tax, viz., '*Zibati*' '*Bhasan*' and '*Tola*' for the same business.

When we waited in deputation upon the Hon'ble Revenue Minister in the middle of July 1941, we suggested something like the following:—

(*i*) the rate of '*Zibati*' should be made uniform in all the fisheries;

(*ii*) all professional fishermen must become '*Zibati*' tenants of one or other of the fisheries;

(*iii*) the '*Zibati*' tenants of a particular fishery should not be required to pay any other tax, '*Bhasan*' or '*tola*' for *hilsha* fishing in that particular fishery;

(*iv*) all fishermen, casual or professional, should pay '*bhasan*' or seasonal tax for the *hilsha* season only at so much per head at a uniform rate, subject to proviso (*iii*) above;

(*v*) the '*bhasan*' being there the '*tola*' should be made illegal altogether; and

(*vi*) the '*bhag*' should be reduced and made uniform.

You will notice that what we suggest can be done without infringing into the existing legal rights of the proprietors of fisheries. Secondly a minimum '*zibati*' income is secured for all fisheries. Thirdly, by making the '*bhasan*' applicable more or less to all fisheries, casual or otherwise, the income on '*hilsha*' fishing is made elastic in proportion of the abundance or otherwise of the catch. It is obvious, the larger the likelihood of the catch, the larger will be the number of fishermen who will flock to a particular fishery. Fourthly, although it is easier to collect the '*tola*' from the comparatively small number of '*beparis*', yet as in that case the '*zibati*' tenants are affected, we cannot recommend '*tola*' in place of '*bhasan*'.

We suggest a mixed Enquiry Committee composed of legislators and officials of the Revenue Department to conduct a local enquiry for the purpose of fixing the rates of the different varieties of taxation.

Before concluding, I draw your attention to the monopolistic practice of the '*zaradars*' in allowing sales through pet '*beparis*' only. We consider this an illegal encroachment on the liberty of the fisher to sell to whom he chooses."

Sir, I believe the case of the fishermen deserves most sympathetic consideration on the lines suggested by this people's man behind the prison bar are long overdue. I thoroughly agree with him that a mixed Committee of Enquiry should be set up to go into the question of taxation under the burden of which these unfortunate poor people are groaning and legal measures should be adopted without delay to give them suitable economic relief which is their due claim. I hope that the Hon'ble Minister will kindly give an assurance on the floor of this House on this subject.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.36,44,100 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the abolition of Permanent Settlement and the failure of the present Government to give effect to the recommendation of the Floud Commission.

Sir, first of all I wanted to say something on the abolition of the system of nomination to the local bodies. But I need not say much because my friend Mr. Israil knows how it is that this question of the abolition of the system of nomination has always been kept in the back-ground.

Another burning problem is the Secondary Education Bill—that also is well known to the House. Some members of the Coalition Party stood in

the way of the Education Bill being passed while some others wanted that *the Chairman of the Board should be nominated. I think during this session* they will have the Bill passed. In this connection I beg to say that the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea went to a locality within my constituency and there he made a speech that Mr. Shahedali did not support the Secondary Education Bill. So I say how pernicious this problem is.

Another burning problem is the abolition of Permanent Settlement. Since the inauguration of the present Assembly there have been attempts that Permanent Settlement should go. The then Fazlul Huq Ministry appointed a Committee to enquire into it and they submitted their report and after that without giving effect to it they appointed another expert to examine it and there were other persons appointed to examine it. There were reports after reports but there was no attempt to give effect to the recommendation of the Floud Commission. When the Fazlul Huq Ministry was in office, on the 14th and 15th of March the then Revenue Minister Mr. P. N. Banerjee declared on the floor of this House that the recommendation of the Floud Commission should be given effect to and would begin from the district of Faridpur. I think all honourable members know this. Soon after this that Government went out and present Ministry came into power and the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea took the portfolio. Since then it seems to me he has forgotten everything about it. My request is not to the Hon'ble Minister because we know him. We had experience of him. He can only pass on sweet words and he can only quote beautiful words about Floud Commission. I request the members of the Muslim League party because they are representatives of the masses; they are not representatives of the zemindars or landlords. I would ask them to see that the recommendation of the Floud Commission is given effect to immediately. To give solace and to give consolation to you they have introduced one Agricultural Income-tax Bill and that has been passed. Is it for the benefit of the masses? You know the proceeds have not been earmarked for the benefit of the masses. The measure has affected the tenants also because the tax is payable not only for revenue but also for rent. So my submission is that this has not benefited the masses and the rent of the tenantry has not been reduced. I would request you to see that the present Ministry do give effect to the recommendations of the Floud Commission and if they fail it is time that they should go away. I also request the Hon'ble Minister in chrage who has got a zemindary, if he fails to give effect to it which is his concern, he should vacate his office and make room for another Minister from the Coalition Party.

Another thing which has created great disturbance in the district of Tippera is the realisation of rent and education cess by Garnishi system. This process was first applied in the districts of North Bengal. Now it has been extended to East Bengal also. The Minister boasted that there has been good realisation of rent in East Bengal. I ask, what was this due to? That was due to the fact that Garnishi system has been introduced in this part of the province.

Another thing which will strike all is that revenue, rent as well as education cess are realised by sale certificate. I put this question to the Certificate Officer and he said "Go to the authority and enquire of them". I do not know what instruction was issued by the Hon'ble Minister but this was the language of the Certificate Officer. So my submission is that the Hon'ble Minister will see whether this can be removed immediately and he should issue warning that such thing may not be done in future.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 36,44,100 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the manner of compensation given to the owners of lands requisitioned under the Defence of India Rules in the Chittagong Division.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are certainly aware that in the district of Tippera large areas of land—*nal*, *bhiti*, *bagan*, homestead—have been requisitioned under rule 75A of the Defence of India Rules and large areas are being requisitioned almost daily. It is necessary to add here that large areas have been requisitioned or rather have been taken possession of by the Military Authorities close to the Tripura State. It is obligatory under the Defence of India Rules that if requisition of any land is to be made the notice as contemplated by rule 75A is to be served upon the owner and occupier and after notice the Military Authority or any authority for whom the requisition was intended can enter into the land on expiry of the period mentioned in the notice. Then compensation is to be determined by the Civil Authority who got the land requisitioned on agreement with the owners and occupiers and if owners and occupiers disagree the matter of compensation is to be referred to arbitrators. These are statutory rules which have been framed with the object of giving proper and adequate compensation to the persons whose lands are requisitioned. But in the district of Tippera the following grievances are being felt by the persons affected by the requisition.

In areas close to the Tripura State lands are taken possession of by the Military Authorities without requisition, *i.e.*, without notice as required by rule 75A of Defence of India Rules being served upon the owners and occupiers and consequently owners and occupiers whose lands are thus taken possession of do not get compensation and the persons aggrieved on that account do not get reliefs by petitioning the local Civil Authorities.

The rate of compensation per acre for different class of lands for the years 1942 and 1943 were determined from this office and the instructions were sent by circulars to determine the amount of compensation on the basis of that rate—the rate of compensation per acre for all class of lands in the year 1943 except of Lalmai Hill lands was determined on the basis of Rs. 225 per acre. But strangely the local authorities in many areas contrary to the instructions embodied in the circular compensation for the year 1943 had been determined not on the basis of Rs. 225 per acre but even on the basis of Rs. 10 per acre specially in respect of lands close to the Tripura State, *i.e.*, in the Singerbeel area in the Brahmanbaria subdivision but the people affected by the rate are not getting any relief by submitting petitions to the local authorities.

It has been brought to our notice that for the current year, *i.e.*, for the Bengali year 1351 and onwards, instructions had been sent to reduce the rate of compensation to Rs. 140 per acre instead of Rs. 225 per acre and the compensations are being determined on that rate. This is highly prejudicial to the interests of the persons affected by requisition. Lands requisitioned can be classified into two areas, viz., (1) the Singerbeel-Akhaura area, *i.e.*, the area close to the Tripura State in the Brahmanbaria subdivision, (2) the Comilla-Lalmai area in the Sadar subdivision. In the Singerbeel-Akhaura area where larger areas of lands are being requisitioned, the lands requisitioned are mostly high lands—*bhiti* lands—where there are existing fruit-bearing jack-fruit trees, bamboo clumps, thatching grass, and other fuel trees and on the unoccupied lands, *i.e.*, the lands not occupied by above trees, etc., generally sugarcane are grown and used to be grown and the values of those articles have enormously increased in the year 1944 specially in that area on account of the high demands of those articles due to military requirements and we are sure the value will further increase in the year 1945.

In the Comilla-Lalmai area the lands can be classified under four heads: (*i*) culturable *nal* lands where two paddy crops Aus and Pous are grown, (*ii*) ছন ক্ষেত, *i.e.*, lands in which thatches are grown, (*iii*) বড়বড়া ক্ষেত, *i.e.*, lands in which one variety of errums is grown which serves as good vegetables in the locality, (*iv*) বিল, *i.e.*, uncultivated land where

there are jungles containing bamboos, fuel trees, timber trees and where there are many fruit-bearing trees, such as mango trees, jackfruit trees, blackberry trees, bel trees and plum trees, etc. In Lalmai hills the rate of compensation allowed by Government is abnormally low in view of the present *situation and the present price of commodities grown therein. It is to be* noted here in the case of compulsory acquisition 15 per cent. above the market rate is allowed under the Land Acquisition Act which is to be followed in the matter of determining the amount of compensation as required by section 19 of the Defence of India Act.

In regard to the first item of lands, viz., *nal* lands where paddy crops are grown—one acre of land yields 60 maunds of paddy in two crops only deducting the cost of cultivation to the extent of half of the produce—the price of the balance of the paddy, namely, of 30 maunds comes up to Rs. 200 at the controlled rate though according to the bazar rate the price comes up to Rs. 300.

In regard to the second item of lands, viz., lands where thatching grass is grown, one acre of land yields approximately 200 bundles of thatching grass, and each bundle is valued at Rs. 2 in the minimum. Thus the price of 200 bundles is Rs. 400 deducting the cost of Rs. 100. The net yield is valued at Rs. 300 per acre. (At this stage the red light was lit but the member was allowed to speak for two minutes more.)

Sir, as regards the cost of removal and replacement too the amount paid under this Head is too low. The cost was determined in the year 1942. The price of building materials and the wages of labourers were then much less than what it is now. The price of building materials and the wages of labourers have increased four times since then. That is not taken into consideration in determining the cost of removal and replacement in the Lalmai hills. There were dwelling homesteads and *bagans* of many persons wherefrom they have been removed. I would draw the attention of the authorities to one important fact that after the termination of war when the lands will be relinquished, it will not be possible to relinquish the lands in the condition in which they were when they were acquired. The question of replacement, and compensation due to permanent deterioration of lands due to the loss of trees, tanks, etc., will be of utmost importance. The correct preparation of records is also of utmost importance. Government should now take steps to put the matter under very efficient officers and experts. This, we are afraid, has not been done in the districts. The matter is a very important one and it cannot be dealt with in a short time. So I would like to put the grievances in a petition and hand over the petition to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department with the hope that he will go to the locality and make personal inspection, and try to remedy the grievances embodied in the petition.

With these few words, Sir, I move the amendment standing in my name.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Sir, I have got cut motions Nos. 116 and 117. I am not moving them, but I am speaking generallsy on the cut motions that are standing in my name. The purpose of my cut motions was to raise a discussion about the abolition of Permanent Settlement. Now, Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Shahedali has delivered a speech on this. After the election everybody that came to this Assembly came on a definite pledge that Permanent Settlement should be abolished. We on this side of the House, I mean members belonging to the Muslim League party had a programme and it has been incorporated therein that Permanent Settlement should be abolished and we were insistently demanding upon the first Faslul Huq Government that Permanent Settlement should go, and on our insistent demand they were forced to appoint a Commission known as the

Floud Commission and they submitted a report and that report has been examined by one Special Officer, Mr. Gurner, but no effect has as yet been given to it. In the Floud Commission the proposal was that pending the implementing of the recommendations of the Floud Commission Government may impose an agricultural income-tax. That was a transitional measure to be adopted till the implementing of the recommendations of the Floud Commission, *i.e.*, till the abolition of the Peranent Settlement and the present Government has actually imposed an agricultural income-tax in accordance with the recommendations of the Floud Commission. When that Agricultural Income-tax Bill was being discussed in the Assembly, doubts were expressed that by passing the Agricultural Income-tax Bill into an Act this Government would not abolish the Permanent Settlement and would take no steps in that regard. We on this side of the House urge upon Government to take immediate steps to see that the recommendations of the Floud Commission are given effect to. The Floud Commission itself recommended that the Permanent Settlement could not be abolished until fresh settlement operations had taken place. In Faridpur settlement operations had been completed; in Barisal they had been stopped by an order of the last Ministry. I would urge upon the Minister in charge of the Revenue Department to see that immediate steps are taken to see that if not in the whole of Bengal at least in Faridpur where the settlement operations had been completed and also in the Sunderbans area wherein settlement operations are being completed, Permanent Settlement should be abolished according to the recommendation of the Floud Commission. As a preliminary step, Faridpur may be taken as one of the units in giving effect to the recommendation of the Floud Commission. The last famine has demonstrated to us, and it has been the opinion of many experts, that the land system in Bengal was to a great extent, if not mainly, responsible for the shortage of food production in Bengal. Every member of this House is aware that because the tillers of the soil, particularly the *bargadars* and other people, have no direct interest in land, they have got no encouragement, they have got no inducement and they have no stimulus to grow more food in the land because whatever they grow they are not entitled to the whole of it They have to give half of it to their landlords who are either tenure holders or raiyats. So, unless the permanent settlement goes, even the production of food cannot improve. My request, and insistent request, to the Hon'ble Minister is that immediate steps be taken or at least a declaration be made that steps will be taken immediately to give effect to the recommendations of the Floud Commission.

Mymensingh is one of the biggest districts and my request is that the settlement operations be taken up in that district and the recommendations of the Floud Commission be given effect to. In this way, I submit that if it is possible to give effect to the recommendations of the Floud Commission piecemeal, they should do so in order that there may not be any repetition of famine.

(At this stage, the honourable member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. DAMBER SINGH GURUNG: Sir, I had submitted a cut motion——

Mr SPEAKER: You need not mention that. You can speak without referring to it.

Mr. DAMBER SINGH GURUNG: I do not understand why this cut motion was not allowed.

Mr SPEAKER: It is not a question of allowing—

Mr. DAMBER SINGH GURUNG: I beg to submit that cut motions of members who are in the Opposition are allowed to be moved whereas the cut motions submitted by members supporting the Government are not allowed to be moved.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you insist on moving your cut motion and putting *it to vote?*

Mr. DAMBER SINGH GURUNG: You have not allowed it, so I am not going to move it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then, speak generally.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: So far as we are concerned, we do not object to Mr. Gurung moving his cut motion because we claim that he is in the Opposition although sometime he errs.

Mr. DAMBER SINGH GURUNG: I mean to say that the cut motions of the Opposition parties have been allowed but the cut motions of Government members are not allowed. I do not propose to move the cut motion. May I speak on the motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: Do as you please.

Mr. DAMBER SINGH GURUNG: Sir, there is a slight mistake in my motion. Instead of "without compensation", it is printed as "with giving compensation". As it is printed, it does not convey any meaning. However, Sir, I wanted to represent to the Government the grievances of *khas mahal* tenants in the Darjeeling district. The first and foremost grievance of the *khas mahal* tenants in the district of Darjeeling is the right of the tenants on *khas mahal* lands. The tenants are given 15 years lease but they have no right on the land. The Government can resume the land whenever they require it for whatever purpose it may be, without giving compensation. The tenants are just like chowkidars on the lands. The tenants spend a lot of money for improving the land by clearing jungles, terracing the land, etc., in order to make it cultivable but when the land is improved the Government resume it without any consideration for the money the tenants spent on the land. Formerly the Government used to give compensation and also some land in exchange but now-a-days they do not do it. In 1919 when about 1,500 acres of land were resumed for development in Kalimpong subdivision the tenants were given compensation at the rate of Rs. 300 per acre and new *khas* lands were also given for the tenants to settle but the Government have changed the policy now. About 4 years back 500 acres of land were resumed by the Government in Kalimpong subdivision for afforestation but no compensation for lands was given; only the cost of houses and price of the standing trees were given. At first Government told the tenants that they would get the compensation for the lands. The Government officials took the signature of the tenants on the plea that they would be given compensation but after the tenants signed the document they were given only the cost of houses and not the compensation for the land. Again there is a proposal for resumption of about 500 acres of *khas mahal* land in Kalimpong subdivision for afforestation. So far, the information is only the cost of houses and trees will be given. In these days when the Government is pushing vigorously the campaign of grow more food the agricultural lands are being resumed for aforestation. The plea is that there is danger of land slip on those lands. There is no doubt danger of land slip but only about ¼ of the land that is under proposal is actually in danger. The Forest Department do not like to take charge of small patches of land and do the work of afforestation. They want a big area, so even those lands which are not in danger are being resumed and the tenants are going to be thrown out landless and homeless with no money to buy other land to live in. Again last year thousands of acres of land in Sadar subdivision of Darjeeling were resumed by the Government for growing vegetables for military. The tenants were given compensation at the rate of Rs. 15 per acre for the land. The tenants had actually cultivated the land but when the crops were getting ready the lands were resumed and nothing was paid for the crop—not even for seeds. The tenants

submitted representation to the local officials but so far nothing has been done. Darjeeling is one of the smallest districts in Bengal but has contributed the largest share in the war effort by supplying man power. The sons, brothers and uncles of those tenants who have been ousted from their lands are fighting for the country.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. DAMBER SINGH GURUNG: Only a minute more! Many of them have sacrificed their lives but what reward do we get? We are thrown out in the street—homeless, landless and penniless. The main thing is lack of sympathy in the local officials. Cent. per cent. of the *khas mahal* tenants are hill people but the *khas mahal* managers are all non-hillmen who do not understand the language, customs, etc., of hill people and mainly their troubles. They are regarded as chattels and the officials do not feel at all even when the tenants are made homeless and landless. I have very often aproached the Governmnt for appointment of hill men as *khas mahal* officers but they do not pay any heed. How long are we to tolerate these sorts of injustices and sufferings. Our sons and relations are daily shedding their blood in the battle-field in thousands and here we are made homeless. I request the Government to look into all these matters and redress the grievances by appointing the hillmen as *khas mahal* officers who will at least understand and feel for the troubles and difficulties of the *khas mahal* tenants and further I request the Government to pay adequate compensation to the tenants for the lands resumed.

Maulvi ABDUL JABBAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not propose to move the cut motion No. 43 standing in my name, but I would like to say a few words regarding realisation of education cess from *raiyats* not in accordance with section 30, sub-section (*4*), of the Primary Education Act in the district of Dinajpur for consideration of Government. In the proclamation of assessment of Primary Education cess issued by the Collector of Dinajpur, clause *uno* (১) says that education cess from *raiyats* would be at the rate of 3½ pice on each rupee of the *jama* or 1¾ times of the cess now paid. The above section of the Primary Education Act says nothing about the proportions of the cess to the education cess. It is either on rent or annual value. Further if the cess had been realised from *raiyats*, in strict accordance with section 41(*3*) of the Cess Act at one half rate, *i.e.*, at 6 pies per rupee on the rent or annual value the proportion of the cess to the education cess as mentioned above would have been all right. But this is not done and where the annual value has been ascertained in respect of *raiyats'* holdings, the landlords realise cess not in accordance with section 41(*3*) of the Cess Act but under section 41(*2*) of the said Act. Besides there are landlords who realise from *raiyats* cess under section 41(*3*) and revaluation cess under section 41(*2*) of the Cess Act although the realisation of cess under both the sub-sections is not authorised by law. For the purpose of realisation of cess if a *raiyat's* holding is treated as a tenure and cess is charged under section 41(*2*) of the Cess Act, there is no law nor any justification why cess should also be charged on him as a *raiyat* under section 41(*3*) of the said Act.

It is on these grounds that the education cess, if made payable at 1¾ times of the cess now paid in respect of the *raiyat's* holdings on which the annual value has been ascertained, would mean a great hardship on the *raiyat*. The proportion of the cess at 1¾ times to the education cess does not hold good and the *raiyat* would have to pay education cess at a much higher rate than what is authorised by section 30(*4*) of the Primary Education Act while this excess realisation would not go to the benefit of the Primary Education Fund but would benefit the landlords. So far as the rate of the education cess is concerned, section 30 of the Primary Education Act is complete in itself and is not controlled by the Cess Act. In the circumstances it is only legal that in the matter of realisation of the education cess, section 30 alone should be followed and no proportion of the cess to the Education cess should be brought in.

As the cesses are being realised much in excess of what the law authorises, it would be wrong to make the cess the basis of realisation of the education cess. In this connection I would like to say that section 30(4) of the Primary Education Act is quite sufficient to cover both the cases of realisation of the education cess from the *raiyats*, namely, that the education cess should be at 3½ pice per rupee on the rent where no annual value has been ascertained or at 3½ pice per rupee on the annual value where such value has been ascertained.

Now, let me take a concrete case for understanding the position in all its aspects by applying the formula under clause *uno* ( ) of the proclamation issued by the Collector of Dinajpur, *i.e.*, at 3½ pice per rupee of the *jama* or at 1¾ times of the cess now paid. Suppose the *jama* of a *raiyat's* holding is Rs. 10. The cess payable is annas five at six pies per rupee. The education cess at 3½ pice per rupee on Rs. 10 is annas 8-9 pies or 5 annas at 1¾ times is -8-9. So it is found that both the alternatives under clause *uno* (s) hold good as no annual value has been ascertained in this case. But, suppose, on the said *jama* of Rs. 10 the annual value ascertained under sections 24 and 25 of the Cess Act is Rs. 20, and if the second alternative of the Collector's above formula is applied in this case, the position is as follows:—

Under section 30(4) of the Primary Education Act the Education cess ought to be Rs. 1-1-6 pies at 3½ pice per rupee on Rs. 20 but in the cases mentioned below the education cess charged is much in excess. One class of landlords is charging the Education cess as below:—

Twenty annas minus five annas which is equal to fifteen annas. At one and three-four times of fifteen annas it is equal to Rs. 1-10-3 pies which they are charging as education cess.

A second class of landlords is charging the education cess as follows: (at this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech):—

Cess on *jama* five annas plus revaluation cess of twenty annas at one anna on annual value at one and three-four times which is equal to Rs. 2-11-9 which is calculated as the education cess.

That the landlords are realising cess and also revaluation cess will be corroborated by the letter of the Secretary of the Landholders' Association, Dinajpur, to the Secretary, Board of Revenue, Bengal, a copy of which has been forwarded to me on the 22nd February, 1945, by the Collector, Dinajpur, in reply to my letter to the latter.

Again there is a third class of landlords charging education cess by treating them as estates under clause *ka* of the proclamation, i.e., at 1¼ times of the cess plus revaluation cess stated above plus one pice per rupee of the *jama*. At this rate the education cess comes to Rs. 2-1-9 pies.

This subject has created great confusion among the landlords in the district. In the circumstances of the case I would request the Hon'ble Minister to examine the whole question and issue a fresh notification regarding the correct and legal amount of the education cess to be paid by the *raiyats* in the district in cases where the annual value has been ascertained.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I entirely agree with what has been said by my honourable friend, Mr. Israil. We are very modest in our demand. Sir, the Hon'ble Ministers as well as we made bright promises to the countryside that the Permanent Settlement would be abolished very shortly. May I hope that legislation to that effect will be taken up very soon by Government. I know, Sir, Government is very anxious today to do many things for the good of the country. We find that they are very busy in excavating the channels, rejuvinating the silted up rivers. We know that Government has every good intention to uplift the countryside.

In spite of the good intentions of Government we find that there is opposition everywhere. We find that the zamindar is opposed to every scheme of economic betterment for the rural people; we find also that the tenureholder is opposed to such schemes. Khals and rivers have been recorded in the possession of the zemindars and tenure-holders. They will not permit any excavation on these khals and rivers. Land Acquisition procedure is so cumbrous and dilatory. Naturally therefore improvement of drainage is not a possibility so long as permanent settlement continues. Sir, the zamindar will naturally oppose the abolition of the Permanent Settlement. The zamindars are an influential body in this province; they are able to keep in check the activities of Government towards the abolition of the Permanent Settlement. Therefore I want a clear assurance from Government that the Permanent Settlement will be abolished and if that assurance comes, I must congratulate the Hon'ble Minister and the department concerned on the bold stand they are going to take. Sir, I would welcome the abolition of the Permanent Settlement first in my own district of Faridpur, but I would not be content with that alone. I would like to see the Permanent Settlement abolished as expeditiously as possible throughout the length and breadth of the whole of Bengal.

Then, Sir, I should like to say a few words in the matter of relief. The Hon'ble Minister knows very well that Bengal was in the grip of a terrible famine in 1943, and the Hon'ble Minister also knows that there was corruption even in the matter of famine relief. The communal ratio rules were given a go-bye by the officers in charge of appointments. I pointed that out to some of the Hon'ble Ministers and today my appeal to Government is that justice must be done to all communities and corruption removed.

Then, Sir, my third point is this. The whole district of Faridpur has been in the grip of famine since 1939 on account of failure of crops due to abnormal flood in 1938. Government were very anxious to give relief; they gave test relief; they gave loans, they gave gratuitous relief. In 1940 there was failure of crops; in 1941 there was some crop; in 1942 there was crop failure; in 1943 there was complete famine. Government have given money enormously to the district and for that our gratitude knows no bounds. But now I find that Government are very anxious to get back the loan from the people. Of course, they must but I do feel that Government should not be harsh. By giving money to the famine-stricken people, by giving relief they saved life and property to some extent. Lives were saved surely. But the orders of Government have now become rather severe. I have noticed that a circular letter has been issued to all Revenue Officers to say that their services will terminate if they cannot show a good progress in the near future. You know, Sir, when there is an order like this from Government, the District Magistrate of Faridpur has added a few more words of warning; the Revenue Officers will not only lose their present job but they will not have any chance of getting a job in future under this administration. So, Sir, harshness has gone beyond limits. Money must be realised but at the same time justice must be tempered with mercy. Famine-stricken people must be dealt with in the way they deserve. There is yet relief operation going on and at the same time you cannot be so harsh on the people by realising the loan mercilessly. Of course, those who can pay must be made to pay but mercy must be shown to those who cannot pay. It cannot be possible that what you give with one hand you take with the other, but in taking and in giving there must be proportion so that distress may not go on and your orders may not be agonising and painful to the people who are not yet out of distress.

Sir, I hope that some act of mercy will be available and our Minister will give some sort of assurance so that the officers who have been served with those orders from the Government may also know that they may exercise discretion in the matter.

Maulvi ASIMUDDIN AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমি আমার নামের ৫৯-৬২নং ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব সম্বন্ধে বলিতেছি। আমি এইমাত্র বল্‌তে চাই যে কুমিল্লার ৬ মাইল পশ্চিম দিকে লালমাই ব'লে যে পাহাড় আছে সেখানকার ও নিকটবর্ত্তী স্থানের বহু জমি ১৯৪৩ সালে acquire করা হয়েছে। ১৯৪৩ সালে যে-সকল জমি acquire করা হয়েছে আজ পর্য্যন্ত তার জন্য কোন compensation তারা অনেকেই পায়নি এবং সেই compensation ৫ বছর পূর্ব্বে যে হারে দেওয়া হয়েছে আজকাল তার চেয়ে আরও কমান হচ্ছে। আজকাল সমস্ত জিনিষের দর বেশী এবং চট্টগ্রাম ডিভিসনে বিশেষতঃ ত্রিপুরা জেলায় acquire করা জমি বেশী এবং সৈন্যদের আড্ডা বা ঘাঁটিও বেশী। বাংলার অন্য কোন জেলায় এ রকম নয়। সেখানে জিনিষপত্রের দর কলিকাতা থেকে অনেক বেশী-- আপনারা তা ধারণা করতে পারেন না। সেই লালমাই পাহাড়ে হাজার হাজার লোক বাস করে। তাদের সকলকেই তার উপর থেকে তাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে। তাদের বাসের জমিও acquire করা হয়েছে। আর সেই পাহাড়ের উপর যেখানে লোক বাস করে না সেখানে আম, কাঁঠাল, ছন, কচু, বাঁশ, ধান এইসব করা হয়, এবং দোফসলী ধানও হয়। সেই সব জিনিষের মূল্য কলিকাতা থেকে বেশী। কিন্তু তাদের ২৪ ঘণ্টার নোটিশে বাড়ী থেকে তাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে। সে কি কষ্ট যাঁরা বাড়ীতে পরিবার নিয়ে বাস করেন তারা ধারণা করতে পারেন। ঐসব কর্ম্মচারীদের যারা নোটিশ দিয়েছে তাদের যদি এই রকম নোটিশ দেওয়া হয় যে ২৪ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে চলে যেতে হবে তাহলেই বুঝতে পারবেন যে পরিবারের সমস্ত লোক এবং জিনিষপত্র সরিয়ে অন্য স্থানে বাড়ীঘর কোরে বসবাস করতে পারবেন কি না। তা না হলে তাঁদের বোঝবার শক্তি হবে না। তাদের মাত্র ।।০ আনা কোরে removalএর খরচ দেওয়া হয়। আগে যে removalএ ।।০ আনা লাগত এখন সেখানে ৫৲ টাকাতেও হয় না। দৈনিক মজুরী সেখানে ৩।৪৲ টাকার কম নয়। কাজেই ঐ compensation অতিশয় অকিঞ্চিৎকর, কেননা প্রত্যেক বস্তুর দর আগের তুলনায় অনেক বেশী এবং এত বেশী যে ধারণাই করতে পারবেন না। যারা খড়ের বা ছনের ঘরে বাস করে না তারা বুঝতে পারে না যে খড় বা ছনের ঘর করা কি ব্যাপার। এখন বাঁশের দাম ৩।৪৲ টাকা কোরে লাগে যা হয়ত চার আনা ছিল। যারা কচু খায় না, যারা কপি খায়, আলু খায় তারা বুঝতে পারবে না যে কচুর দাম কি। এখন কচুর চারার পণ ৩।।০ টাকার কম নহে। ঐ সকল ফসল করে কোনমতে তারা জীবিকানির্ব্বাহ করে। ঐ সকল লোকেরা উপযুক্তভাবে খেতে পাচ্চে না। কাঁঠাল, আম, জাম, কলা গাছ যা ছিল তার ফলে চল্‌তে পারত, কিন্তু ঐ সকলের জমি acquire করছে। আর যারা record করে তারা এত corrupt, এত বদমায়েস যে স্বচ্ছন্দে বলে যে আমাদের ২০।২৫৲ টাকা যদি না দাও তাহলে আমরা সেগুলো খিলা জমি লিখে দেব যে এতে কোন ফসল বা গাছ নাই। এইভাবে ১০।২০।২৫৲ টাকা ঘুষ নেয়, নইলে record করে না। ১৯৪৩ সালে যেসব জমি record হয়েছে এখনও তার ক্ষতিপূরণ দেয়নি। ধর্ম্মপুর বোলে গ্রাম আছে সেখানে ৩।৪ মাইলের ভিতরের সমস্ত ঘরবাড়ী থেকে অনেককে তাড়িয়ে দিয়েছে। মধ্যে মধ্যে তাদের protected area আছে। তার ভিতর অনেক জমি রয়েছে যা acquire করেনি। তার ক্ষতিপূরণ পাওয়া যাবে না। যেসব অসুবিধা হয়েছে তা মানুষকে বোঝাতে পারা যায় না। আমি জানতে চাই মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এই সব ব্যাপার চোখে দেখে ঐসব প্রজাদের কোন সুবিধা করবেন কিনা। তিনি কি শুধু মানুষকে দুর্ভিক্ষে মেরে এবং মানুষকে উলঙ্গ রেখে শেষ করবেন, না আর কিছু তাঁর করণীয় আছে? জমিদারী প্রথা উঠালেন না--সেলব কাজ কিছুই করলেন না। তিনি কি করবেন সেইটাই একটু শুনতে চাই এবং compensationএর ব্যবস্থা হবে কি না সেটা মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কাছে জান্‌তে চাই।

Mr. Shah SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : Mr. Speaker Sir, জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ বাংলা দেশে সর্ব্ববাদীসম্মত অভিমত। বাংলার প্রজাদের সকলেই জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ চায়। এই জমিদারী প্রথা বহাল রাখার পক্ষে বর্ত্তমানে কোন সঙ্গত যুক্তি নাই। লর্ড কর্ণওয়ালিশের সময় যখন Permanent Settlement হয়েছিল তখন ব্রিটিশ গভর্ণমেণ্টের সঙ্গে জমিদারদের যে চুক্তি হয়েছিল সে চুক্তি বর্ত্তমান জমিদারগণ ভঙ্গ করেছেন। তখন বাংলা দেশের প্রজাদের শিক্ষার ভার, পানীয় জলের ভার, দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয়ের ভার, পথ-ঘাটের ভার, জমিদারগণ সেই চুক্তি অনুসারে নিজেদের ঘাড়ে নিয়েছিলেন। এখন প্রজারা রাস্তা-ঘাটের জন্য, পানীয় জল ও শিক্ষা প্রভৃতির জন্যও সেস দিচ্ছে, চিকিৎসার জন্য কর দিচ্ছে, ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডের মারফৎ জেলায় জেলায় কাজ চলছে এবং শিক্ষার জন্যও ট্যাক্স দিচ্ছে। এই সব যদি মন্ত্রী মহোদয় চিন্তা করেন তাহলে জমিদারী প্রথা বহাল রাখার পক্ষে কোন যুক্তি দেখাতে পার্ব্বেন না, নেহাত একগুয়েমি ছাড়া। Floud Commission জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের জন্য বিশেষভাবে বলেছেন এবং সেজন্য আমরাও জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের জন্য এই পরিষদে দাবী উপস্থিত করেছি। তার উপরে শিল্পের দিক দিয়ে বাংলা দেশ আজ বাংলার বাহির হইতে এবং ভারতের বাহির হইতে আক্রমণের ফলে বড়ই সঙ্কটের মধ্যে চলিতেছে। এই যথাযুগীয় নীতির পরিণতি স্বরূপ চতুর্দ্দিক থেকে যেরূপ শিল্প

আক্রমণ চলেছে তাতে বাংলাকে যদি তার নিজের শিল্প বজায় রাখতে হয় তাহলে তাকে আত্মরক্ষার জন্য তৈরী হ'তে হবে। বাংলার শিল্প-প্রতিষ্ঠান গড়তে হ'লে দরকার হবে কোটি কোটি টাকার। কিন্তু এই মন্ত্রিগুলী ও এই ফৌজদারী যেকেন দ্বারা কোন কাজ হ'তে পারে না। কারণ ওরা সকলেই বর্ত্তমানে চোরাবাজার নিয়ে ব্যস্ত। যদি জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ হয় তাহলে জমিদারেরা যে ক্ষতিপূরণ পাবে সে টাকা কোথাও invest করতে পারবে না। আগে কোন ধনী কোটিপতি দেখত কোন পরগণায় কোন জমিদারী খরিদ করা যায় কি না? কোন জমিদারীর কোন অংশ খরিদ করা যায় কিনা? জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ হলে ঐ টাকায় জমিদারী কিনবার সুযোগ পাবে না। তখন বাধ্য হয়ে জীবিকানির্ব্বাহের জন্য বড় বড় কলকারখানা স্থাপন করতে হবে। বাংলা দেশের শিল্পের উন্নতির জন্য এবং বাহির থেকে আক্রমণের দ্বারা বাংলার ব্যবসাকে গ্রাস করার হাত থেকে রক্ষার জন্য এবং সেই আক্রমণ প্রতিরোধ করবার জন্য এখানে প্রচুর পরিমাণে শিল্প-প্রতিষ্ঠান গড়তে হবে, কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট এজন্য এত টাকার সংস্থান করতে পারবেন না। যদি জমিদারী স্বত্ব গভর্ণমেণ্ট নিয়ে নেন তাহলে তার জন্য যে ক্ষতিপূরণ দেবেন সেই টাকায় বিরাট বিরাট শিল্প তৈরী হবে। গত ফজলুল হক গভর্ণমেণ্ট ১৯৪৩ সালে এজন্য প্রতিশ্রুতিও দিয়েছিলেন। কিন্তু এখন সেই ফ্লাউড কমিশনের রিপোর্ট রাইটার্স বিল্ডিংসের-টেবিলের নীচে খুব আরামে আছে। সেখান থেকে সেই রিপোর্ট বাহির কোরে কার্য্যে পরিণত করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি। মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণ বাংলার প্রজাকে এই যে বাংলার পরগাছার দল জমিদারেরা রয়েছে তাদের হাত থেকে রক্ষার চেষ্টা না কোরে প্রজাদের উচ্ছেদের জন্য প্রত্যেক দিন কোন কোন ট্যাক্স বসাবেন সেই চিন্তা করছেন। এই যে Agricultural Income-tax হয়েছে তা থেকে আমার সামনে যে শ্বেত বন্ধুরা বসে আছেন তাহাদিগকে বাদ দিয়েছেন এবং বাংলার প্রজাদের ঘাড়ে কোটি কোটি টাকা ট্যাক্স চাপাচ্ছেন, তার পরে sales-tax—গরীব প্রজা যে কাপড় কিনবে, কাফনের কাপড় কিনবে, ফসল কিনবে, ঔষধ কিনবে—তাকে সেই ট্যাক্স দিতে হবে। এত ট্যাক্স কোরে কোরে বাংলা দেশকে আর বাঁচতে দেবেন না।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: মি: স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি বক্তৃতা দিতে দাঁড়াইনি। আমি শুধু বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিগুলীকে একটা কথা জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই। বিগত হক-মন্ত্রী-সভা এই জমিদারীপ্রথা উচ্ছেদের জন্য এই পরিষদে ঘোষণা করে ফরিদপুরে কার্য্য আরম্ভ করিবার জন্য যে নির্দ্দেশ দিয়েছিলেন, সেই নির্দ্দেশটাকে বর্ত্তমান জমীদার মন্ত্রী-সভা কেন রদ দিলেন, তার একটা পরিষ্কার জবাব চাই।

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Sir, in this fag end of the day and with threatening clouds over head, I feel it is not possible to answer all the points raised in all the amendments that have been moved. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Particularly when the Frontier Ministry has fallen!).

Sir, my demand is a modest one. The amount of expected receipts is Rs. 3,51,94,000 whereas my demand is only for a sum of Rs. 36,44,000 which is just 10 per cent. of the total expected income. Sir, the increase in the income last year was to a large extent due to recovery of arrears of rent and increase in expenditure was due to repair of damaged embankments, dearness allowances to officers and repair to damages by cyclone to *khas mahal* buildings.

Now, Sir, coming to the motions which have been moved, I am sure that Mr. Gurung will be glad to know that instructions have already been issued for payment of compensation not only for the buildings and the standing crop but also for loss of land especially where settlement was obtained on payment of *selami* or on payment of price of the land.

Regarding the motion about education cess, I would only like to submit that section 30 of the Act clearly lays down the manner of the payment and leaves hardly any room for doubt about its misuse. But if in any case where tax has been illegally or arbitrarily realised is brought to the notice of Government, Government will certainly take immediate steps to remedy it.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: On a point of order, Sir. I want to inform the Hon'ble Minister that in the district of Tippera rent as well as the education cess are realised together by certificate. That is not the law, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: If any individual case is brought to the notice of Government, Government will certainly take immediate steps in the matter.

Now, Sir, coming to the question of the Sunderbans area, I would submit that it is a very complicated problem. The Sunderbans area which was unfortunately developed rather early has various problems to be solved, namely, educational, public health, medical, drinking water supply, improvement of communication facilities and last but not the least improvement of the embankments and drainage channels.

On receipt of various representations from different parts of the area I myself made an extensive tour in the whole of this area, and I am convinced that the Sunderbans people require immediate help, protection and care. Sir, Government has already taken up the matter and is making a thorough enquiry and, if necessary, Government proposes also to appoint a committee of enquiry to go through all its details and submit a report regarding the present condition of the people of the Sunderbans area from various points of view; Government expect that the matter will be taken up and steps will be taken if necessary to give necessary help to these people in no distant future. I have already held several meetings and attended a large number of meetings all over the area and discussed the matter with the people fully in all its aspects about their troubles and difficulties. I can assure the House that this matter is receiving earnest consideration and care of Government.

Then, Sir, regarding the motion moved by Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal, I would only submit that Government have already taken up the matter.

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to give an answer to the various questions raised about the policy to abolish Permanent Settlement.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: As I was saying, Sir, Mr. Mal knows thoroughly well that the matter has already been taken up by Government and even this evening I myself had a lengthy conference with the Divisional Commissioner and other officers and representatives of the Midnapore and Contai areas, and we hope that proper relief will be given to the people in this area in no distant future. In fact, orders have already been issued to give relief to these people, especially to those who have been affected by the last cyclone.

As regards realisation of Government rent and dues, I would submit that agricultural loans have got to be realised not only for the benefit of Government but for giving relief to similar other people who are in need of getting help from Government and so we have got to realise the loans as far as possible, for giving relief to similar people or for granting fresh loans to them. But Government fully realises its duties and responsibilities and every step is being taken to see that no undue pressure is put for the payment of their dues. It is a clear fact which I bring to the notice of the House that up to the 31st of March, 1944, agricultural loans to the extent of about Rs. 98,31,000 have been advanced to the people of Midnapore district alone and out of this only Rs. 10,68,000 have been realised up to date. In the district of Tippera of which special mention has been made by my friend, Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta I would submit for the information of the House that out of a total amount of Rs. 5,26,000 advanced to that district only Rs. 1,16,000 have been realised up to date. In the whole of this province only 47 lakhs of rupees have been realised up-to-date against the total loan of 3,28,62,000. So, Sir, from these facts it will be quite apparent that no undue hardship has been caused to the people anywhere. Government is very particular about that and definite instructions have been issued to all Government officers concerned to see to it. In spite of that if there be any case of undue hardship and if the matter is brought to the notice of Government then it will certainly receive due attention and care.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: What about fishermen?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I am coming to that, Sir. As regards measures taken in the Chittagong Division I would only say that after a due enquiry the amount of compensation has been increased in all the districts in that division, viz., in Noakhali from Rs. 100 to Rs. 300 per acre, in Tippera from Rs. 140 to Rs. 250 per acre and in Chittagong from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per acre. Sir, it is well-known to the House that these requisitions were made very hurriedly and at a time when emergency was very great. We had hardly any sufficient officers at our disposal to do this work thoroughly and so there may have been some mistakes or defects here and there but since the whole thing has been well organised, I hope there will now be no cause for complaint anywhere in those areas.

Coming to the question of giving relief to the fishermen, I would submit that this matter is being dealt by the different departments of Government with a view to rehabilitating the fishermen. The Industries Department and the Agriculture Department are taking steps for giving them necessary relief.

As regards other matters raised by Mr. Atul Chandra Sen I can assure him that they are engaging the careful and special attention of Government. A new Bill covering all these grievances to a great extent has already been drafted and I am thankful to my friend, Mr. Sen, for giving valuable suggestions which will receive the most earnest and sympathetic consideration of Government.

Sir, lastly coming to the most burning question of the day, viz., giving effect to the recommendations of the Land Revenue Commission I would submit that the previous Ministry did practically nothing in the matter except making a statement in this House just to allay the anxiety of their supporters. But I submit, and I say this without any fear of contradiction, that this Ministry soon after it came into office took up the matter in right earnest and endeavoured to give effect to the recommendations of the Floud Commission immediately But with the serious situation then prevailing all over the country and the situation which was brought about as a result of war and famine it was not possible for the present Government to give effect to the recommendations of the Floud Commission and take up the matter as seriously as they had intended to do because they had to pool all their resources and men to take up the more important work and more pressing humanitarian work, viz., giving relief to the distressed. Sir, by the grace of Providence by this time the situation has improved. Government have already set up a machinery to give effect to these recommendations. Sir, it is a well-known fact that it is this Government that brought into operation the Agricultural Income Tax Act. There is a substantial section of the community whose interests have been very hard hit by this measure but they have agreed to support it for the sake of larger interests—the interest of general public. The Opposition may call the present Government a Zemindar Ministry, which it is not, or whatever expression they may like to use for their own satisfaction but still it is this Government that took the first step to pass the Bengal Agricultural Income Tax Act. As regards other important recommendations of the Floud Commission, namely, State purchasing of zemindaries, Government has already set up a machinery to draw up detailed schemes for the purpose of giving effect to those recommendations. It is the intention of Government not only to take up but also to give effect to the State purchase scheme. As soon as the Settlement operations are over they propose to take up the district of Faridpur and then the Sunderbans area where people require immediate help and gradually to extend the operations in other parts of the Province. Sir, this Government really mean and intend to carry on the work fully and thoroughly and it is not a mere empty assurance as was given by the last Ministry. (Interruption.)

I do not propose to take up any more time of the House. With these words I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 36,44,100 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the necessity of making early legislation for removing the miserable condition of the tillers of the soil in the Sundarbans area, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal that the demand of Rs. 36,44,100 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government for the realisation of Government loans in flood, typhoon and cyclone-affected areas of Contai and Tamluk in the district of Midnapore, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal that the demand of Rs. 36,44,100 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in realising Khasmahal rents and rents of estates managed by Court of Wards and revenues from the permanently-settled estates by the application of Sunset Law and other stringent methods in the flood, typhoon and cyclone-affected areas of Contai and Tamluk and other subdivisions of Midnapore district, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 36,44,100 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to relieve the fishermen community of varied and excessive taxation and other impositions that weigh on them heavily, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Shahedali that the demand of Rs. 36,44,100 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the abolition of Permanent Settlement and the failure of the present Government to give effect to the recommendations of the Floud Commission, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 36,44,100 for expenditure under the head "7- Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise discussion about the manner of compensation given to the owners of lands requisitioned under the Defence of India Rules in the Chittagong Division, was then put and lost

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea that a sum of Rs. 36,44,100 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8-1 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 13th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 13th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 182 members.

QUESTIONS

Further supplementaries to Starred Question No. 184.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (a) (i) that the output of cocoons had been reduced because of black-marketing, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have been able to ascertain the cause of such black-marketing?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: The apparent cause is the high price available outside

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are we to understand that the price for cocoons produced by the actual rearers and fixed by Government under the control rate is very much lower than the price paid by the reelers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: By black-marketers yes It is comparatively lower than the price obtainable in the black-market.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it because the price fixed by Government is very much lower than the normal available price compared to the price of silk cloth in the market?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: As far as the fixation of the price is concerned, our price is greater than that in Mysore and some other places and recently these prices were also raised

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has there been any restriction on the price of silk clothings or silk cloth from the price of which the price of yarn and the price of cocoon as well have to be determined?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: There has not been any control on the price of silk.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangements Government have made for enforcing the price? Has there been any strengthening of the enforcement staff in the districts concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I understand there has been certain strengthening of the staff.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any special enforcement staff has been appointed or the enforcement work is left only to the local police?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: The actual paper is not available here, but, speaking from memory, I believe certain special staff has been appointed for prevention.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that cases detected by the local people with the help of

local dealers and brought to the notice of the police are not pursued in the courts of law vigorously by the Government even when such cases are bought to their notice?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not aware of a single case like that. I shall be very happy if the honourable member will bring any particular case like that to my notice which has not been pursued.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has got any information about a case arising at Beldanga where certain profiteering filature owners have been detected buying cocoons at a very high price from the black-market and this has not been proceeded with?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: No, Sir. If the honourable member will supply me with information, I will certainly have an enquiry made into the matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*f*) where reference has been made to particular distribution through the sole agent, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether that is the arrangement at present prevalent?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I believe so, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of the sole agent?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not sure, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Some Marwari?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I think so. As far as I remember, it is some Marwari.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that that Marwari gentleman of Malda has been allowed as much as 22½ per cent. of commission over and above the price although there were other persons prepared to undertake the work at a lower commission rate?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I do not remember the exact percentage allowed to the agent but the man was appointed on the recommendation of the District Magistrate of Malda.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Was there any scheme with the Government or is the Government at present considering the desirability of splitting up the sole agency and having a number of local agencies instead to make procuration more effective?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: The matter is under my consideration.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that this Mr Bewani, the Marwari merchant of Malda, has now tendered resignation after having made a good amount of money out of that?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not aware of that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the method adopted by Government for reaching cocoon and yarn to the actual weavers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I think, Sir, I have already replied to that question that after the quantity of the cocoons that is necessary for the defence services has been taken, the rest is left over for the use

of filature and charka owners and I think a Government Officer also takes certain interest in seeing that a certain proportion is supplied to these filature and charka owners.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in Murshidabad the weavers made series of complaints to the District Magistrate saying that the yarn which was meant for the weavers went into the black-market through the agents and that they never got it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not aware of it and, as I have said earlier, I shall be very glad to receive any particulars and I will have an enquiry made.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Government for ensuring supply of yarn to the weavers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: There is a shortage of crop and except that the best quality cocoon is kept for this particular purpose, the rest is left over for weavers and others.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the arrangement made by Government for ensuring actual supply of yarns to the weavers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I do not think Government is controlling the entire crop or the distribution of yarn to the weavers.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many improved charkas had been distributed to the weavers in each district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: For detailed information I ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether against each particular such charka any minimum quantity of yarn has been ensured or supplied?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: No, Sir. I do not think any definite scheme has been drawn up.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the appointment of a sole agent, Mr. Bewani, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that this Mr. Bewani was given the sole agency for the entire charka silk produced in Bengal on the understanding that he will share the profits with one nominee of the Hon'ble Mr. Shahabuddin's friend, Mr. Hamidul Huq Chaudhuri, a Muslim nominee?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. That is an insinuation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why? I can give the name. I can show the agreement.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot give the name.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that the sole agency was given to Mr. Bewani on the understanding that he will share a certain portion of profit with one nominee of the Hon'ble Mr. Shahabuddin's friend?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: The statement is absolutely false and malicious, and as I have already said the man was appointed not only on the recommendation but on the insistence of the District Magistrate of Malda.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be please *to state if he is in a position to show the entire file to two or three represen* tatives of this House belonging to his own party as to how this appointment has been made?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I would like to treat that question with contempt. I am certain that the members of my party have full confidence and realise that it is absolutely a malicious statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise as a supplementary question.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Appointment of Supply Officer of Narail in Jessore district.

***164. Mr. P. BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that according to a standing order of the Government anybody who had been connected with a charge of murder cannot be appointed as a responsible officer under the Government?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he intends to take with the present Supply Officer of Narail, district Jessore?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that if a person makes a false statement at the time of his appointment under the Government, he is liable to immediate dismissal?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he proposes to do with the present Supply Officer of Narail, who at the time of his appointment claimed to be an inhabitant of 24-Parganas while in fact he hails from village Sorsuna, police-station Lohagara, in Narail subdivision, district Jessore?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that under the established rules of the Government, Magistrates, Deputy Magistrates, Superintendents of Police, Deputy Superintendents of Police, Inspectors of Police, Circle Officers, Sub-Deputy Collectors, Supply Officers, etc., are not allowed to be in charge of their own home districts and subdivisions?

(*f*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to inform the House of the special consideration in connection with the employment of the said Supply Officer of Narail and the steps he proposes to take in this connection? If not, why not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*b*) Government have no information whether the present Supply Officer, Narail, Jessore, was ever connected with a case of murder.

(*d*) At the time of his first appointment under Government as an Inspector of Jute Regulation, Government were aware that his home district was Jessore and the statement that at that time he claimed to be an inhabitant of 24-Parganas is not therefore correct.

(*e*) Yes; this is the general practice.

(*f*) There was no special reason for his posting to Narail apart from the fact that his previous posting as Jute Regulation Officer was in Khulna and it was convenient to move him only the short distance to Narail in the adjoining district.

Facilities for security prisoners to interview with relations.

*165. **Mr. SATYA PRIYA BANERJEE:** (1) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a policy of Government to provide facilities to the security prisoners for interview with relations in cases of illness or death of their near relatives on humanitarian grounds;

(*b*)(*i*) the number of applications received by the Government from the security prisoners of different jails after the promulgation of the policy mentioned above, (*ii*) the number of applications granted, and (*iii*) the number rejected;

(*c*) whether Sj. Panchanan Chakravarty, a security prisoner of the Dum Dum Central Jail, applied for leave on the 25th August, 1944, to see his old mother attacked with malignant malaria at 2/1D, Halsibagan Road, Calcutta;

(*d*) whether Sj. Sanat Kumar Ray Chowdhury, a security prisoner of the Dum Dum Central Jail, applied for leave for two hours in December, 1943, to see his dying sister at her Calcutta residence;

(*e*) whether the aforesaid Sanat Kumar Ray Chowdhury applied for leave for two hours to attend the *sradh* ceremony of his father who died suddenly of heart failure on the 27th May, 1944, and to meet his relatives on that occasion at their Calcutta residence; and

(*f*) whether Sj. Nani Chand Mitter, a security prisoner of Dum Dum Central Jail, applied for leave on parole for a few hours to see his very old grandmother who has become demented on the 21st March, 1944, at their Calcutta residence?

(2) If the answers to (*c*), (*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the applications mentioned therein have been granted? If not, why not?

(3) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Sj. Haridas Ghosh, now a security prisoner of Dum Dum Central Jail, was granted leave for two hours to see his ailing father on the 16th July, 1944, while he was detained in the Presidency Jail;

(*b*) whether any further leave was granted to him;

(*c*) whether numerous petitions were sent to the Government while his father was alive;

(*d*) if no leave was granted, the reasons therefor; and

(*e*) whether 2 hours' leave was granted to him on the 11th August, 1944, after the death of his father on the 9th August, 1944?

(4) If the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he proposes—

(*a*) to take steps so that in future, the leave is granted and information thereof is communicated to security prisoners concerned in time; and

(*b*) to enquire who was responsible for the delay in communicating the grant of leave to the prisoner referred to in (3) and to bring the offender to book?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (1)(*a*) Home Minister refers the honourable member to the Government communique, dated the 12th September, 1942, on the subject, a copy of which is placed on the Library Table.

(*b*) This information is not readily available.

(c), (f) and (3)(a) and (c) Yes.

(d) Home Minister received a petition on the subject from the prisoner, but it was dated the 9th September, 1943.

(e) Yes, but in that petition the prayer was for three days' leave.

(2) No. The leave had been refused, because in no case was the illness so critical that immediate death of the relative was apprehended. In one case the prayer was for attending the *sradh* ceremony, which it is Government's policy not to grant generally.

(3) (b) No.

(d) It was not possible in consideration of the overriding necessity of securing public safety.

(e) This leave for the second time was granted in time, but as the order was issued late, it could not enable him to see his father.

(4) Home Minister has already issued necessary instructions to all concerned to deal with leave petitions with the utmost expedition. In this case the delay was most unfortunate and Home Minister has seriously warned the persons concerned.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action has been taken against the officer due to whose negligence the order of leave could not be communicated to the person in time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that the Chief Minister has seriously warned the persons concerned.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many cases such delay occurred in investigating into the leave petition?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that this is not the first case, but there were other cases of such delay in investigating into the leave petition?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. I have no information about previous cases, but if the honourable member will give notice, that question will be answered.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether they will enquire into the fact that *sradh* ceremonies cannot be duly performed within the precincts of jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government do grant all facilities to perform *sradh* ceremonies within the jail precincts.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Do Government also give facilities to the members of the family of the prisoner to be present at the time of the *sradh* ceremony, which is essential?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know what is the usual procedure, but the Government's policy is to give facilities to the prisoners to perform the *sradh* ceremony within the jail.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Do the Government allow the members of the family to be present if the *sradh* is performed within the jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: As I have already said all possible facilities are given to the prisoners to perform the *sradh* ceremony within the jail.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Does the Government consider the desirability of consulting competent opinion as to the sastric injunction in this respect and whether sradh ceremony can be performed within the jail compound?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know about sastric injunctions but my information is that all facilities have been and are being given to the prisoners to perform sradh ceremonies within the jail premises.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: My question is whether Government will consider the desirability of consulting competent opinion, i.e., people who can say whether according to the sastric injunctions sradh can be performed within the jail compound?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not understand what the honourable member means by consulting opinion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: I mean "experts" or "pandits" who know about the Hindu sastras.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Do you mean theological opinion?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Religious scriptures and not political opinion.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If the honourable members so desire, opinion may be obtained

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Surely we do desire.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the leave petitions for attending the *sradh* ceremony of the father of Sj. Sunirmal Datta and the mother of Sj. Tarapada Bhar were granted?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I did not know about other cases but I remember the case of Babu Sunirmal Datta and I think I wrote to the honourable member who asks this question telling him that he was not the eldest son and therefore it was not incumbent on him to perform the *sradh* ceremony as he had two elder brothers. But Government undertook to give all facilities to the prisoners to perform the sradh ceremony within the jail precincts.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the leave petition was granted for attending the sradh ceremony of the father of Upendra Chandra Rakshit who is the only son of his father?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what directions have been given to expedite the leave petition as referred to in his answer (4)?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether leave was granted to Babu Pratul Chandra Ganguly who is the elder son of his parents on the occasion of the death of his mother to perform the sradh ceremony at home?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If the honourable member desires information regarding a particular case, I am afraid, I will have to ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that two of the brothers of Babu Pratul Chandra Ganguly are also in jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Babu Pratul Chandra Ganguly, the detenu in question sent two telegrams to the Hon'ble Home Minister praying for leave on the occasion?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: In view of the answer just now given by the honourable Parliamentary Secretary that as so and so was not the eldest son permission was not given, are we to understand that if the prisoner happened to be the eldest son Government would give him permission to go and perform the sradh ceremony outright?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, that is not what I meant. I referred the particular case to the honourable member and to Mr. J. C. Gupta who made a request to me. I looked into the case and found that he was not the eldest son and it was not therefore incumbent on him to perform the sradh ceremony. Therefore the petition was rejected

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it as a general rule that leave petition of the eldest son to attend sradh ceremony is granted by the Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has just now said "no".

Enquiry into spreading of T.B. to security prisoners in Presidency Jail.

***166. Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:** (1) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Sj. Haridas Gupta, a security prisoner, of young age, contracted tuberculosis in the Presidency Jail and had to be released on medical grounds;

(*b*) whether Sj. Sunil Kumar Sen, a young man of 19, of robust physique and sound health, contracted tuberculosis while a security prisoner in the Presidency Jail, and had to be released while his condition became very serious;

(*c*) (*i*) whether Aswini Kumar Gupta, M.A., B.L., a Calcutta journalist, of good health and sound physique, contracted tuberculosis while detained in the Presidency Jail and had to be removed to the Jadabpur T.B. Hospital and operated upon for Thoracoplasty including the removal of as many as seven ribs and loss of the right lung, and

(*ii*) whether Sj. Gupta is still a security prisoner in the Presidency Jail suffering time to time from cramps, palpitation, weakness and fever, though recommended by the specialists for immediate removal from Jail atmosphere; and

(*d*) whether Sj. Sudhindra Nath Kumar, M.A., a young man, 26 years old, now a security prisoner in the Presidency Jail, developed T.B. while in that jail?

(2) If the answer to all or any of its clauses is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of instituting an enquiry into the conditions in or about the jail and its hospital which make such rapid and quick attacks of T.B. possible and inviting for his consideration the representative opinion of the security prisoners lodged therein and giving effect to the recommendations, if any, of such an enquiry?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (1) (*a*) to (*d*) Yes; but it is doubtful if these security prisoners contracted the disease for the first time in the jail.

(2) The question is under my consideration.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what leads the Government to think that this disease was not contracted within the jail walls?

Mr. SPEAKER: He said that it was doubtful.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: What reason had he to think so?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The origin of the infection might have been there before they were arrested and imprisoned.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether they have in their possession anything to substantiate their statement that they contracted T.B. from outside and not within the jail?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has not said that Government reply is that it is doubtful. Don't you see that?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this ailment of Sj Sudhindra Nath Kumar was detected?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long after his detention this case has been detected?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was his weight at the time of his arrest and what is his present weight?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I would ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangements for treatment have been made for Sj. Sudhindra Nath Kumar?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government have just issued orders for the transfer of Sudhindra Nath Kumar to the Jadavpur T.B. hospital for his treatment there at Government cost

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long will they take in considering the question whether jail life has got anything to do with the contraction of T B and other diseases?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that the matter is under investigation

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: In view of the medical report and in view of the answer just now given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government intends sending him to a sanitorium during the consideration period?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government have already issued orders for the transfer of this prisoner to the Jadavpur T.B. hospital for his treatment at Government cost.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: What about the other two cases?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Which other two cases?

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: The cases of Sudhindra Nath Kumar and Sunil Kumar Sen.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He has already been released.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Who has been released?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sunil Kumar Sen.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What about the other?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If you mean Aswini Kumar Gupta I ask for notice.

Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Dacca.

***167. Mr. DHANANJOY ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the office of the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Dacca, an important and prominent district, has been left in charge of a Divisional Auditor for a long time; and

(*ii*) whether this officer has been victimising those officers under him who joined the farewell party given to the former Assistant Registrar?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the desirability of posting an Assistant Registrar to Dacca office at a very early date?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal): (*a*) (*i*) This has been the case since 7th August, 1944.

(*ii*) No.

(*b*) Posting of an Assistant Registrar at Dacca is under consideration.

Allowance of Inspectors and Auditors of Co-operative Societies.

***168. Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the Inspectors and Auditors of Co-operative Societies who are placed in charge of circles are not given any house allowance; and

(*ii*) that the Travelling Allowance Bills of Inspectors and Auditors of Co-operative Societies are invariably deducted without any rhyme and reason?

(*b*) If the answers to (*i*) and (*ii*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of removing the inconveniences, if any, of these officers?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No.

(*b*) Recently the Bengal Co-operative Service Association has made a representation for house allowances which will be considered on its merits in due course.

Nomination of the South Suburban Municipality.

***169. Mr. HEM CHANDRA NASKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that recently in reply to several petitions submitted to the District Magistrate, 24-Parganas, by a number of educated and respectable rate-payers of the South Suburban Municipality, district 24-Parganas, for recommending their names to the Government for Municipal nomination, the District Magistrate expressed his inability to

recommend the name of any Caste Hindu as a nominated Commissioner of the said Municipality this year as all the elected non-Muhammadan seats were captured by the Caste Hindus?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for nominating one Pyari Mohan Das, a Caste Hindu in the said Municipal Board?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) In reply to some representations the District Magistrate expressed the view that nominations will have to go to other communities on account of the huge number of Caste Hindus elected.

(*b*) In making his recommendations the District Magistrate included the names of Babu Piyari Mohan Das a member of a backward community (Mahisyas) of the Caste Hindus. Government accepted this recommendation because of the previous good services rendered to the Scheduled Castes and other backward communities by this gentleman.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any Scheduled Caste members applied for nomination?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Scheduled Caste members has any chance of being appointed as a member of the municipality or not?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUUDIN AHMAD: No.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Under what consideration a Scheduled Caste gentleman was excluded from being appointed as a member of the municipality?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I would refer the honourable member to question (*b*).

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Position of rice and wheat in Bengal.

55. **Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to lay on the Table statement showing—

(*a*) the number, according to 1941 Census, of the population in each district of Bengal and in Calcutta;

(*b*) the quantity of rice and wheat required, according to Government estimate in each district of Bengal and in Calcutta for consumption up to 31st December, 1943;

(*c*) the total quantity of rice and wheat found in each of the above places as a result of the recent food drives;

(*d*) the names of mills in Bengal owned by (*A*) European, and (*B*) Indians;

(*e*) the number of employees in each of them;

(*f*) the quantity of rice and wheat found in the hands of each of them;

(*g*) the quantity of rice and wheat purchased by Bengal Government or their agents since April, 1942;

(*h*) the stock now in their hands;

(*i*) how the rest were disposed of;

(*j*) the quantity of rice and wheat purchased by India Government from Bengal since April, 1942; and

(*k*) how the quantity was disposed of?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) to (*c*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*d*) and (*e*) I would refer the honourable member to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department.

(*f*) No separate statistics in respect of mills were prepared.

(*g*) to (*i*) Figures prior to April, 1943, are not readily available. A statement showing the figures from 1st April, 1943, to 31st December, 1943, is laid on the Library Table.

(*j*) and (*k*) I have no information.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Transfer and posting in the Education Department.

***170.** SHORT NOTICE. **Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a circular has been issued under orders of the Ministry of Education in Bengal to the effect that no transfers or postings in the Education Department should take place without consultation with the Chief Whip of the Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why this circular has been issued?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) It is not a fact

(*b*) Does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what interest has been taken or what part does the Chief Whip of Government play in regard to the officers of the Education Department?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Does it arise, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: This question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Have you followed my question, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have followed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The question mentions the Chief Whip and also the officers of the Education Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: And the answer is "no".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is with regard to transfers.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, only with regard to the circular.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My question is whether apart from the circular there has been any arrangement by which the Chief Whip plays a part in this regard.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise out of this question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the question relates to the circular regarding transfers or postings.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the answer is that there is no such circular.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there has been any instruction other than the circular?

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Chief Whip of Government has to be approached by members of the Government party if they want any interference or any submission on their part to be communicated to the officers of the department in connection with transfers, postings or otherwise?

Mr. SPEAKER: It goes even beyond the scope of the question itself.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have mentioned the Education Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in a confidential letter addressed to the Director of Public Instruction over the signature of one of the Assistant Secretaries an advice has been given that if any member wants to communicate or bring to the notice of the Department anything regarding posting and transfer the opinion of the Chief Whip of the Government has to be taken?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: My answer is in the negative.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have issued any instructions, written or otherwise, directing that the Government Chief Whip will have to be consulted in the matter of transfer and posting in the Education Department?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: No, Sir.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether when there is a case of transfer or promotion to the post of a Sub-Registrar or Sub-Inspector of Schools people always flock to Park Circus in the house of Mr. Fazlur Rahman?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Vital statistics of Midnapore.

*171. **Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(i) the vital statistics of the district of Midnapore, subdivision by subdivision, from October, 1942, to August, 1943, month by month, with that of the corresponding months of the year 1941 and 1942;

(ii) the reasons for increase, if any, in the death rate during the period from October, 1942, to August, 1943;

(iii) the detailed measures that his department (*a*) took, and (*b*) propose to take in future to keep the death rate to the average level of previous years;

(iv) what measures, if any, have been taken for admission into, and treatment in Government, District Board and other hospitals of starving people collapsing about in the street and the fields of the district;

(v) what steps, if any, have been taken to pick these people up and to get them picked up and sent to the hospitals;

(*vi*) whether any instructions have been issued for the purposes mentioned in (*iv*) and (*v*) to the various categories of hospitals, and to the District Board, Municipalities, and other self-governing institutions of the district; and

(*vii*) whether any steps have been taken to be in touch with the local influential men of villages for co-operation in the matter?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*i*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*ii*) Death rates of 1942-43 showed an increase over those of 1941-42 in all the subdivisions of the district. This increase was due to the unprecedented cyclone which passed over the district in October, 1942, and was followed by an outbreak of severe epidemic. The malnutrition due to difficulty in procuring foodstuffs at the high prices prevailing at the time also contributed greatly to the high death rate.

(*iii*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*iv*) to (*vi*) One hundred extra beds have been arranged in Midnapore Sadar Hospital for treatment of sick destitutes. Nineteen emergency hospitals, sixteen poor houses with separate accommodation for the sick and twelve shelters attached to health units, have been opened at places in the mofussil, all at Government expense.

A party of stretcher-bearer is always kept ready at Midnapore Sadar Hospital to go on call, and light-wheeled stretchers are also available at Tamluk and Contai towns to be despatched on call, to fetch in any one reported to be on the streets. Two A.R.P. ambulances have been deputed from Khargpur to Contai for use in that subdivision They visit places along the roads and take sick destitutes to the nearest emergency hospital. Relief trucks are also used for this purpose. In Tamluk a boat is being used as a water-ambulance.

(*vii*) The removal arrangements are well known to the public. The Municipal Chairman has been informed officially by the District Magistrate.

Establishment of a Municipality at Kalimpong.

***172. Mr. DAMBER SINGH GURUNG:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether there was any proposal for the establishment of a Municipality at Kalimpong?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for the delay in giving effect to the proposal?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether there is a demand from the public for a Municipality there;

(*ii*) what is the revenue of Kalimpong D.I.F. at present;

(*iii*) what is the amount spent per year for the last three years for the improvement of Kalimpong; and

(*iv*) what is the amount required to run a Municipality?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The delay is partly due to the present war conditions and partly to—

(1) the consideration of the financial aspects of the question, and

(2) the consideration of the objections received in connection with the proposal.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes, from a section of the public.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*iv*) It is not possible to name any definite amount.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (c) (ii) and (iii) of starred question No. 172.

	Rs.	a.	p.
(c) (ii)—			
1940-41	69,242	0	0
1941-42	81,986	9	3
1942-43	73,322	7	3
(c) (iii)—			
1940-41	19,181	4	9
1941-42	37,961	7	0
1942-43	30,899	0	0

Selling of quinine in black-markets.

*173. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that quinine in mufassal area is being sold by the quinine licensees and Sanitary Inspectors and Medical Officers of hospitals and charitable dispensaries in black-markets?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action has been taken by Government to stop it and to bring the culprits to book?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of making an enquiry into the matter?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (a) and (b) Reports of black-marketing of quinine have been received from five districts only. In two cases in the Bankura district the drugs licences of the offenders were suspended and the names of retailers were removed from the list of selling agents; other cases are either *sub judice* or under investigation.

(c) Does not arise

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the districts from where reports of black-marketing have been received?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Bankura, Bogra, Dacca, Mymensingh and Bakarganj.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any prosecution has been started against all the offenders in the Bankura district as referred to in the answer?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this black-marketing referred to relates only to non-official agencies selling at higher than controlled prices or also involves participation by officials responsible for issuing quinine?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The nature of the case differs in different cases.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the officials are involved in any of these black-marketing cases referred to?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: This concerns only non-officials.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that apart from these non-official black-marketeers there

have been instances in the Murshidabad district enquired into by Government, reported by the police as early as 1943 end, which still are hanging fire and have not been sent up for trial, although temporarily suspended?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I do not know that it is on a charge of black-marketing. So far as I remember it is a case of some quantity of quinine being missing from the store.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government or the police have obtained information about the sale of that lost quinine to certain dispensaries and investigations revealed that those dispensaries obtained possession of this through the agency of a Government distributor?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I am not aware of it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, Government have taken in connection with the report of missing quinine and seizure thereof?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that the police investigated into the matter and fully reported about the malpractices exercised but still no action has been taken?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: So far as I remember the report of the police is not in the hands of the Government

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How many reports of the police have been obtained?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I cannot say offhand, but so far as I remember no report of the police against any of the individuals or against anybody is with the Government

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that if in his file questions sent by myself about six months ago are lying indicating the persons and the nature of the crime which still remain unanswered because Government does not find it possible to answer them?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: At least I can say that such a case has not been brought to my notice.

Sj. MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the cases reported from the Bankura district one of the clerks in the district board office is involved?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I do not know the individual, but I can say that some steps have been taken with regard to black-marketing in the Bankura district.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of black-marketing cases in the district of Mymensingh and what steps have been taken?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The matter is under consideration. I cannot give the actual number.

Duties and function of certain public health staffs.

***174. Dr. SANAULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the duties and functions of the—

(1) Subdivisional Health Officers,
(2) Sanitary Assistants, and
(3) Vaccinators appointed by the Government;

(b) what are the corresponding duties and functions of the District Board—

(1) Sanitary Inspectors,

(2) Health Assistants, and

(3) Vaccinators;

(c) what are their respective scales of salary and allowances;

(d) what total average sum per month do these employees receive from their respective employers; and

(e) what sum has been spent by the Public Health Department, district by district, for those employees—

(i) directly paid by the Government, and

(ii) paid by District Boards, from the 1st of January, 1944, up to date?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (a)(1) The duties of Subdivisional Health Officers are mostly supervisory in nature. In addition to supervision of the work of thana sanitary staff and temporary epidemic staff including sanitary assistants and vaccinators, they assist the District Health Officers in all public health matters concerning their respective subdivisions.

(2) Sanitary Assistants carry out anti-cholera inoculations and anti-smallpox vaccinations. Their services are also utilised, where possible, in the distribution of anti-malaria drugs.

(3) Vaccinators carry out anti-smallpox vaccination.

(b) The honourable member is referred to the rules a copy of which is laid on the Library Table.

(c) Subdivisional Health Officers are officers of the military, lent to this Government. They are not paid from provincial revenues. Their rates of pay are not known to this Government.

The pay of the Government employed sanitary assistants is Rs.80 per mensem (including dearness allowance) *plus* a fixed travelling allowance of Rs. 20 per mensem.

The pay of Government employed vaccinators was Rs.30 per mensem.

The pay and allowance of District Board Sanitary Inspectors are Rs.50—5—100 or Rs.50—5—90, travelling allowance Rs.20 per mensem and house allowance Rs.5.

The pay and allowances of health assistants are Rs.20, travelling allowance Rs.5 and house allowance Rs.2.

Pay of vaccinators employed by District Boards varies from Rs.5 to Rs.20 per mensem.

(d) Average emolument of a Sanitary Inspector under District Board is Rs.110 per mensem. In respect of other staff, viz., Government employed sanitary assistants, vaccinators and health assistants of District Boards, the actual monthly rates of pay have been given under (c) above as also those of the vaccinators employed by District Boards.

(e)(i) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(ii) No information is available.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if Government have received any representation from the Bengal Public Health Association, an Association where Sanitary Inspectors are members, representing to Government the desirability of taking over the sanitary staff of the district boards under Government service?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: *Will the honourable member be pleased to state at what stage the consideration of that representation is at the moment?*

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I cannot say that at what stage, but it is under consideration of Government and Government will soon come to some decision.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if Government have given any direction or indication to the district boards regarding the minimum salary that should be paid to the Sanitary Inspectors?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, Sanitary Inspectors are not paid from the district board fund; they are paid by the Government. The district board is only the agent.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the honourable member aware that although the Government of Bengal directed the district boards to adopt a uniform scale of enhanced salaries for the Sanitary Inspectors, a number of district boards have not so far complied with that direction?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: There is no such direction from the Government that an enhanced rate of pay should be paid to the Sanitary Inspectors. On the other hand there are two scales—the higher scale was previously prevailing but at present the lower scale is prevailing

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state why at the present moment when medical men are so much in demand and there is so much scarcity and high prices, a lower scale of pay is now prevalent?

Khan SAHIB HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The lower scale of pay was fixed before the scarcity came in. Moreover they are not supposed to be medical men. They are people with special knowledge of this branch and their pay in the opinion of the Government is sufficient

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if Government consider a pay of Rs. 50 sufficient for a technically qualified person?

Mr. SPEAKER: That he has said already.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if in the opinion of Government the pay of Rs. 5 for vaccinators is also sufficient for a technically qualified person?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What steps Government have taken to see that vaccinators do get sufficient emoluments to maintain their body and soul together?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Government has already given directions to district boards to employ permanent vaccinators for each thana at a higher rate of pay.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if these vaccinators are employed throughout the year or only during certain months in the year?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have already stated that there was a system of employing seasonal vaccinators but the Government have of late sent directions to all the district boards to employ one permanent

vaccinator in the scale of Rs. 20—30 for each thana and as a result so many seasonal vaccinators will not have to be appointed and the number that will be appointed will get higher pay.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state how many villages ordinarily can be handled by one vaccinator?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is the estimate made by Government, if any, regarding the work of a vaccinator and the range over which he can work?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: It is under experiment. The Sanitary Inspectors, Saniatry Assistants as well as the permanent vaccinator will now go round all the villages of the thana and after giving trial of this scheme for some time Government will come to a decision as to how many vaccinators will be necessary for respective unions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it expected or is it one of the duties of the Sanitary Inspectors and the vaccinators to go over all the villages of the thana at least once in the year?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Not necessarily.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if this Rs.50 for Sanitary Inspectors and Rs 5 for vaccinators are inclusive of the travelling expenses, cartage, etc., to move round the villages also?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, Sanitary Inspector's pay is exclusive of house allowance and travelling allowance but Seasonal Vaccinator's pay was so long Rs 5 but Government is considering whether the pay should be increased.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if the revised scale of pay of vaccinators, viz., Rs. 20 per month includes the cost of transport, that is, carting cost, etc., from one village to another also?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: What does the honourable member mean by "transport"?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If a vaccinator is to go from one thana to another—and a thana roughly includes 30 villages—does it include the travelling expenses of the person to go round the villages within the thana also?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state what additional travelling expenses have been provided?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I cannot give the actual figure—so far as I remember, Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 as travelling allowance. The new permanent vaccinators who are going to be appointed for each thana and the Sanitary Inspectors get Rs. 10 and Rs. 20 respectively, as travelling allowance.

Steps taken by Government to combat malaria in Faridpur.

***175. Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA:** (*A*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Medical Department be pleased to state—

(1) what steps were taken by Government to combat malaria in the district of Faridpur in each of the years, 1941, 1942, 1943 and the current year;

(2) what quantities of the following drugs, viz.—

(i) quinine (in pounds),

(ii) mepacrine (in pounds),

(iii) quinine ampoules (in grams),

(iv) cinchona febrifuge (in pounds), and

(v) others

were sent to the district for the aforesaid purpose—

(a) for free supply, and

(b) for sales

in each of the years stated in (1);

(3) what were the agencies appointed for distribution to—

(a) dispensaries, and

(b) public—

(i) for free supply, and

(ii) for sales

in each of the years stated in (1);

(4) what were the machines set up to ensure a supply from centre to individuals in each of the said years;

(5) whether there has been a change of the machinery during the period; and

(6) if so, what is the reason thereof?

(B) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking steps for quick and methodical distribution of the drugs?

(C) If so, what and when it is likely to be given effect to?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (1)(i) Besides supply of free anti-malaria drugs, 191 temporary epidemic doctors during the year 1941-42 and 30 doctors during the year 1942-43 were deputed in the district to cope with the situation. During the years 1943-44 and 1944-45 mobile units were deputed by the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal.

(2) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(3) (a) (i) During the years 1941, 1942 and early part of 1943 the drugs were distributed free to the dispensaries through the District Board and the Civil Surgeon and after that the drugs were placed at the disposal of the District Quinine Rationing Authority who makes allotment to the various distributing agencies in the district.

(ii) Before introduction of the Quinine Rationing Scheme the dispensaries used to purchase the drugs either from Government or from Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co. and since the early part of 1943, when the Quinine Rationing Scheme came into force the drugs are purchased from the District Quinine Rationing Authority.

(b) (i) During the years 1941 and 1942 the anti-malaria drugs were distributed free to the public by the District Magistrate and the District Board through agencies such as District Board Public Health staff, Malaria and Kala-azar Centres, Circle Officers, Presidents of Union Boards, School Masters, out of allotments made to them. Since the early part of 1943, the distribution is made by the District Quinine Rationing Authority in consultation with the District Health Officer through the same local agencies.

(ii) During the years 1941 and 1942 quinine was sold through post offices, medical practitioners and other druggists and since 1943 the drugs are being sold through the agents appointed by the District Quinine Rationing Authority.

(4) Supply of the drugs were made through dispensaries, malaria and kala-azar centres, satellite treatment centres, District Board Health staff and other official and non-official agencies such as Subdivisional Officers, Circle Officers, School Masters, Union Board Presidents, etc.

(5) and (6) Some changes had to be made from time to time as the situation demanded.

(*B*) and (*C*) Necessary arrangements have been made for quick transport and methodical distribution through branch post offices, amongst others.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether quinine is sold through post offices at present in the year 1945?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Quinine is not sold through post offices but mepacrine tablets are now sold through post offices.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us why quinine is not sold through post offices now?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The stock of quinine at the disposal of Government is not sufficient.

Exemption of conscientious objectors from vaccination.

*176. **Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** (1) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health Department be pleased to state whether he is aware—

(*a*) that many Hindus do not undergo medical treatment when attacked by smallpox;

(*b*) that many Hindus and non-Hindus have conscientious objection to vaccination, and

(*c*) that conscientious objectors to vaccination have not to undergo compulsory vaccination in England?

(2) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why conscientious objectors to vaccination should not be exempted from compulsory vaccination in this Province?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (1)(*a*) No.

(*b*) Not known.

(*c*) Yes.

(2) The effect of exempting the conscientious objectors in England from compulsory vaccination was a decrease in the number of vaccination as a result of which series of smallpox epidemics broke out a few years later. It is not considered desirable to run the same risk in the Province where due to the inaccessibility of the interior areas the illiteracy and poverty of the masses conditions are much less favourable for checking an epidemic once it breaks out.

Disposal of vehicles requisitioned by Government under Defence of India Rules.

*177. **Mr. J. H. METHOLD:** (1) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact certain vehicles requisitioned by Government under the Defence of India Rules are being sold by Government at a financial profit;

(*b*) if so, whether it is proposed to return the profit to the person from whom the vehicle was originally requisitioned; and

(c) if not, why not?

(2) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that a decision has now been taken to offer requisitioned vehicles to their original owners at the price paid as compensation less depreciation at one per cent. per mensem;

(b) whether this decision has retrospective effect;

(c) whether any profit made on sales prior to the decision will be handed back to the original owners; and

(d) if not, why not?

(3) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that in returning requisitioned vehicles to the original owners Government have decided to make additions to the price in respect of repairs, although such repairs became necessary as a result of wear while in Government's use; and

(b) if so, what is the justification for this decision?

(4) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether in the event of the original owner of a requisitioned vehicle not desiring the return of the vehicle, it is proposed to allow other persons from whom vehicles have been requisitioned an opportunity of acquiring the vehicle at the price paid as compensation less depreciation before it is sold in the open market; and

(b) if not, why not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (1) (a) Certain requisitioned vehicles condemned by the Central Public Works Department (Central Government Department) were sold by public auction to the highest bidder. The prices realised were higher in some cases than the prices paid to the original owners.

(b) The matter is under the consideration of the Central Government.

(c), (2)(d) and (4)(b) Do not arise.

(2) (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The matter is under the consideration of the Central Government.

(3) (a) Not unless the repairs and additions are very extensive.

(b) The justification is that in such cases the value of the vehicle is enhanced.

(4) (a) This point is under consideration and a decision has not yet been taken.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if vehicles are being requisitioned even now?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

UNSTARRED QUESTION.

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Mulberry cultivation and fixation of price of cocoon.

58. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (1) With reference to the answer to unstarred question No. 70 of the 13th December, 1944, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that though due to war condition there was a great facility for stimulating mulberry cultivation in Bengal, yet the increase compared to the possibility has been very slight and almost negligible; and

(b) whether the Government has any definite plan for rapid increase in the acreage? If so, what?

(2) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(a) what was the number of rearers, cottage reelers and weavers engaged in silk manufacture in Bengal before the commencement of the war, district by district; and

(b) whether the number has increased by this time owing to increased production of silk as revealed in answer to unstarred question No. 70 of the 13th December, 1944? If so, how many?

(3) (a) Is it a fact that the policy of allowing the Government agents including the Government subsidised factory owners the first preference for the purchase of cocoons, is compelling the rearers to undersell their cocoons at a price much lower than the ceiling price owing to the planned dilatoriness of the agents in buying cocoons at a much later period than the harvest season?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate any measure for fixing the minimum price for cocoons in order to safeguard the interests of the rearers and thus to intensify the cocoon-rearing in Bengal?

(4) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government agents having got the first preference, purchase all the best cocoons available in the market leaving behind only the inferior qualities and a smaller quantity for a comparably larger number of cottage reelers who are thus compelled to produce only inferior qualities of yarn at a higher cost and thereby affect the handloom weavers, as well, who are the only customers of the cottage reeling production through the sole agent of the Government and ultimately hamper the progress of silk industry in Bengal as a whole; and

(b) if so, what arrangement has been made by the Government for removing the obstacles thus created in the silk industry?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin): (1) (a) No. The increase in the area of mulberry cultivation over the pre-war acreage cannot be considered slight or negligible in view of the fact that all other agricultural crops received similar impetus due to war.

(b) Yes. Rewards are given to mulberry growers for increasing mulberry cultivation and bonuses to silk-worm rearers for plantation of tree mulberry of improved variety. Free supply of mulberry grafts and cuttings is also made.

(2) A statement is placed on the Table.

(3) (a) There are no Government agents for purchase of cocoons. In view of the black-market to which major portions of cocoons finds its way and having regard to the demand of silk for the defence services, the filatures producing silk for parachutes and components are given facilities in purchasing cocoons in preference to others who are not associated with war supplies. As the filatures can use cocoons of good quality only, they cannot in their own interests, wait till the end of harvest time. The question of underselling does not also arise as there is a controlled price for cocoons based on the standard of 18 rendita.

(b) No. The minimum price for different varieties of cocoon can be easily determined with reference to the standard referred to above.

(4) (a) The filatures require the best type of cocoons whereas *charka* reelers do not. As due to black-marketing the filatures can secure only a

fraction of cocoons grown in Bengal, the question that the *charka* reelers are getting cocoons of only inferior qualities and in small quantities does not arise.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (2) of unstarred question No. 56.

	Number of rearers.	Number of cottage reelers.	Number of silk weavers (including *matka*).
(*a*) TABLE SHOWING THE PRE-WAR POSITION.			
Malda ..	10,486	813	129
Murshidabad ..	3,391	532	1,136
Birbhum ..	1,009	49	561
Bankura ..	127	23	997
Midnapore ..	282	13	Nil
Rajshahi ..	47	Nil	Nil
	15,342	1,430	2,823
(*b*) TABLE SHOWING THE PRESENT POSITION.			
Malda ..	12,185	813	113
Murshidabad ..	4,997	532	998
Birbhum ..	1,331	49	482
Bankura ..	165	23	892
Midnapore ..	317	13	Nil
Rajshahi ..	139	Nil	Nil
Bogra ..	17	Nil	Nil
Burdwan ..	18	Nil	Nil
Nadia ..	36	Nil	Nil
	19,205	1,430	2,485

N. B. The decrease in the number of weavers is due to various causes, viz., death from famine and distress, want of raw materials, i.e., silk yarn, inability to purchase silk yarn at exorbitant rates and allurement of lucrative employment under war conditions.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Dearth of materials for different industries in Birbhum district.

***185. Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state if he is aware—

(1) that the industrialists of the district of Birbhum are all at a handicapped position to get on with their different industries for want of materials which are not available in the market;

(2) that the weavers, oilmen, cobblers, blacksmiths, fishermen, brass and bell-metal dealers and such all others are in great need of getting supply of yarns, mustard seeds, nails, steel, brass, zinc and such materials at control rate and at convenience; and

(3) that the District Magistrate after much difficulties have been able to get supply of yarns only to meet the demand and that the Industries Department is neither giving him any supply of other things nor it is responding to his letters?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of issuing immediate orders to the department concerned to supply the demand of the district as early and promptly as possible?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: (a) (1) and (2) Yes.

(3) The Director of Industries has despatched 50 bales of yarn to District Magistrate, Birbhum, and supplied 13 bales of yarn to Viswa Bharati (Santiniketan and Sriniketan) Silpa Bhabans. At present the Civil Supplies Department is in charge of supply of yarn.

The Director of Industries has arranged for the supply of following articles:—

Brass Sheets—3 tons.
Mild Steel—1 ton.
Zinc—10 cwt.
Tin—1 cwt.
Iron nails—20 lbs.

Wagon priority has been received and the above articles will be despatched soon. Arrangement for the supply of 3 wagon loads of mild steel bars are complete. Miscellaneous other articles, viz., handloom, carpenters' tools, cobblers' implements, iron balls, Krishna glace yarns, leather, etc., are awaiting allotment of wagon.

As regards mustard seeds I have no information as Civil Supplies Department deal with it

(b) Does not arise

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when 50 bales of yarn were despatched to the District Magistrate, Birbhum?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I won't be able to give the exact date.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Approximate idea of the time of despatch?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: On 3rd October, 1944.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the consignment previous to that?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I do not know.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us when the Civil Supplies Department has taken charge of supply of yarn?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I think since a year ago textile is being dealt with by the Civil Supplies Department.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the articles mentioned namely, brass sheets, mild steel, zinc, tin and iron nails have been despatched by this time?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I expect so. At that time according to the information given by the Director of Industries the priorities had been received and arrangements were made to despatch them.

Dr. SARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any quota has been fixed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: No, Sir. I do not think any quota has been fixed. According to the requisition of the District Magistrates these are being sent to the various districts.

Further improvement of the Arakan Road.

***186.** SHORT NOTICE. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that after the conquest of Akyab and consequent opening of the sea route to Arakan Military have stopped abruptly further improvement of the Arakan Road by cancelling the contracts even leaving half-burnt bricks?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Provincial Government are considering the desirability of taking up the work at the stage at which it was left by the Military in order to prevent colossal waste of materials and labour?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he proposes taking the matter up immediately in view of the coming rains?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain): (*a*) I have no information on the point.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Appointments in the Fishery Department.

***187. Mr. RAJIBUDDIN TARAFDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*a*) the number of appointments that have been made in the Fishery Department from 1st April, 1943, to 31st October, 1944;

(*b*) in what grades and to which posts they have been appointed;

(*c*) how many in each grade and post are (A) Muslims, (B) Hindus, (C) Scheduled Castes, and (D) others; and

(*d*) from which districts they have been recruited in each grade and post (their number to be shown separately district by district)?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: A statement is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 187.

Total number and grade.	Community.	District.
(1) One Deputy Director of Fisheries of the B. C. S. rank with a special pay of Rs.100 per month.	Muslim ..	Bogra.
(2) Four Superintendents of Fisheries in the scale of Rs.150—25—200—25/2—300—50/2—650.	4 Caste Hindus ..	1 Dacca. 1 Howrah. 1 Noakhali. 1 Calcutta.
(3) One Personal Assistant to the Director of Fisheries, Bengal, in the scale of Rs.150—25—200—25/2—300—50/2—500.	Muslim ..	Dacca.

Total number and grade.	Community.	District.
(4) D. F. O.'s in the scale of Rs.125—5/2—130—10/2—150—15/2—180—10/2—250.	(i) 15 Caste Hindus	(i) 3 Calcutta. 2 Dacca. 2 Tippera. 1 Howrah. 1 24-Parganas. 1 Dinajpur. 1 Sylhet. 1 Faridpur. 3 Not yet joined.
	(ii) 8 Muslims	(ii) 2 Dacca. 1 Calcutta. 1 Nadia. 1 Chittagong. 1 Mymensingh 1 Pabna. 1 Lucknow.
	(iii) 1 Scheduled Caste	(iii) 1 Rajshahi.
Total .. 24		
(5) Field Assistants (scale Rs.50—6/2—80—5/2—115).	(i) 12 Caste Hindus	(i) 3 Noakhali. 2 Dacca. 2 Chittagong. 2 Jessore. 1 Khulna. 1 Birbhum. 1 Pabna.
	(ii) 7 Muslims	(ii) 3 Tippera. 2 Dacca. 1 Calcutta. 1 Jessore.
	(iii) 1 Scheduled Caste	(iii) 1 Dacca.
Total .. 20		
(6) Clerks—		
(i) Scale Rs.45—45—50—6 2—80—5/2—105.	(i) 2 Muslims	(i) 1 Dacca. 1 Noakhali.
(ii) Scale Rs. 35—35—40—4 2—68—3/2—80.	(ii) 3 Hindus	(ii) 2 Mymensingh 1 Murshidabad.
Total .. 5		
(7) Fishermen attendants ..	(i) 2 Caste Hindus	(i) 1 24-Parganas. 1 Khulna.
	(ii) 2 Muslims	(ii) 1 Khulna. 1 Tippera.
	(iii) 2 Scheduled Castes.	(iii) 1 24-Parganas. 1 Tippera.
Total .. 6		

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the minimum qualifications for the officers employed with reference to his replies (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) and (7)?

Mr. SPEAKER: All the seven?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: (i) *Superintendent of Fisheries (Production).*—The candidate must possess a 1st or 2nd class M.Sc. degree in Zoology, or a B.Sc. degree with Honours

in Zoology, preference being given to those who have done original research. Practical experience in fishery and ability to organise both the economic and scientific aspects of the fishery industry would be additional qualifications.

(ii) *Superintendent of Fisheries (Technology)*.—The candidate must possess a 1st or 2nd class M.Sc. degree in Bio-Chemistry, preference being given to those who have done original research. Practical experience of fish processing and utilisation of fish wastes would be essential.

(iii) *Superintendent of Fisheries (Marketing)*.—The candidate must possess a 1st or 2nd class M.A. degree in Economics or a B.A. degree with Honours in Economics,, preference being given to those who have done original research, ability to organise the economic aspects of the fishery industry and to look into fish prices and fish statistics. He must be temperamentally suited to collect information regarding fisheries from fishermen.

(iv) *Superintendent of Fishery (Research)*.—Post has been sanctioned but the qualifications have not yet been prescribed. Necessary information will be supplied after the same is advertised by the Public Service Commission, Bengal.

(v) *District Fishery Officer (Production)*.—He must possess a first or second class M.Sc. degree in Zoology or a B.Sc. degree with Honours in Zoology, preference being given to those possessing research degree for work on fish and fisheries or having practical experience of fisheries work, more particularly of Inland Fisheries.

(vi) *District Fishery Officer (Rehabilitation)*.—He must posess a 1st or 2nd class M.Sc. degree in Zoology, or a B.Sc. degree with Honours in Zoology, preference being given to those possessing an Honours degree in Anthropology or Psychology, ability to organise both the economic and scientific aspects of the fishery industry, be temperamentally suited to collect information regarding fisheries from fishermen

(vii) *District Fishery Officer (Marketing)*.—The candidate must possess M.A. degree in Economics and ability to organise the economic side of the fishery industry.

(viii) *District Fishery Officer (Technology)*.—The candidate must possess M.Sc. or B.Sc. Honours degree in Chemistry, preference being given to those who have taken some training in Biology; practical training in Modern methods of curing of fish and utilisation of fish waste is also essential.

Field Assistants.—The candidates must possess I.A. or I.Sc. certificates, preference being given to those having knowledge in Biology.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if all the candidates appointed possess the minimum qualifications as stated by the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The candidates have been appointed on the report of the Public Service Commission. We did not go into details. We take it that they do possess the minimum qualifications.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Scheduled Caste candidates who were appointed also had the minimum qualifications?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has already been answered.

Question time over. Starred question 187 stands over for supplementaries.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After Adjournment*)

Time-table for Debate on Demand for Grants.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have got four demands before the House to-day, viz., Provincial Excise, Stamps, Forest and Other Taxes and Duties. I propose to allot the time as follows:—

Provincial Excise		..	1 hour.
Stamps	.. ..	..	10 minutes.
Forest	.. ..	..	20 minutes.
Other Taxes and Duties	..	..	20 minutes.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

8—Provincial Excise.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 29,28,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise".

Mr. MAQBUL HOSSAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 29,28,000 for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to undertake any comprehensive scheme of Prohibition.

বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই প্রদেশে মাদকদ্রব্য নিবারণের জন্য কোন পরিকল্পনা প্রস্তুত করিতে অসমর্থ হওয়ায় আমি এই ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব পরিষদে উপস্থিত করিতেছি।

বাংলার বর্ত্তমান লীগদলীয় মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে এই প্রদেশে মদ, গাঁজা, ভাঙ্গ, আফিং ও চরসের যে ব্যাপক প্রচলন দেখা দিয়েছে এবং বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভা জনসাধারণকে এই সমস্ত মাদকদ্রব্য ব্যবহারের জন্য যেরূপ উৎসাহ দিতেছেন তাহাতে আশঙ্কা হইতেছে যে এই মন্ত্রিসভা আর অধিককাল টিকিলে অদূর ভবিষ্যতে সমগ্র বাঙ্গালী জাতি একটি মাতাল জাতিতে পরিণত হইবে। আমার উত্থাপিত এই অভিযোগ যে সম্পূর্ণ সত্য তাহা আমি তাহাদের দ্বারা রচিত বাজেট বরাদ্দ হইতে প্রমাণ করিতেছি। ইং ১৯৪১-৪২ সনে দেশী মদে আয় হয়েছিল ৭৭ লক্ষ ৯২ হাজার টাকা, দেশী পচাই মদে ১৭ লক্ষ ২৯ হাজার টাকা, বিদেশী মদে ১১ লক্ষ ৪৮ হাজার টাকা, আফিংএ ৩৯ লক্ষ ৮১ হাজার টাকা, গাঁজা, ভাঙ্গ এবং চরসে ৩০ লক্ষ ৯২ হাজার টাকা। কিন্তু ইং ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সনে আয় ধরা হয়েছে দেশী মদে ২ কোটি ৭৭ লক্ষ, দেশী পচাই মদে ২৫ লক্ষ টাকা, বিদেশী মদে এক কোটি ৯০ লক্ষ টাকা, আফিংএ ৮৪ লক্ষ টাকা, গাঁজা, ভাঙ্গ এবং চরসে ৭৬ লক্ষ ৭৫ হাজার টাকা। মাদকদ্রব্যের এই কয়েকটির হিসাব হইতে দেখা যাইতেছে যে ইং ১৯৪১-৪২ সন হইতে ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সনে আয় বাড়িয়াছে ৪ কোটি ৭৪ লক্ষ ৯৭ হাজার টাকা। বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের আবগারী খাতে এই যে বিপুল আয় তিন বৎসরে বৃদ্ধি পাইয়াছে তাহাতে রহিয়াছে বাংলার স্থানে স্থানে মন্ত্রী দলের মেম্বর ও সমর্থকগণের দ্বারা মাদকদ্রব্যের অসংখ্য দোকান প্রতিষ্ঠিত করে দলের মেম্বরগণের অর্থোপার্জনের ব্যবস্থা করা। বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভা এইভাবে তাদের দলের মেম্বরগণের অর্থোপার্জনের পথ সুগম করিয়া দিয়া নিজেদের দল ভারী রাখারও চেষ্টা করিতেছে। (মন্ত্রিসভার সমর্থক দলের পক্ষ হইতে—ঠিক নহে।)

প্রথম হক মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট মাদকদ্রব্য নিবারণের পন্থা অবলম্বন করেছিলেন এবং তৎকালীন মন্ত্রিসভার নেতা হক সাহেব নোয়াখালি জেলা হইতে মাদকদ্রব্য উঠাইয়া দিয়াছিলেন এবং ক্রমে ক্রমে বাংলার অন্যান্য জেলাসমূহ হইতে মাদকদ্রব্য উঠাইবার নীতি হিসাবে একটি পরিকল্পনা রচনা করিয়াছিলেন। কিন্তু নাজিম ও তুলসী চালিত বর্ত্তমান লীগ মন্ত্রিসভা বাংলা হইতে মাদকদ্রব্য উঠাইয়া দিবার পরিকল্পনা ত গ্রহণই করেন নাই অধিকন্তু নোয়াখালি এবং অন্যান্য জেলাতে মদ, গাঁজা, আফিং ইত্যাদির অসংখ্য দোকান প্রতিষ্ঠিত করিয়াছেন। এইভাবে লীগ মন্ত্রিসভা মুসলমানের ধর্ম্মীয় কাজে হস্তক্ষেপ করিতেছে।

বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভার নেতা স্যার নাজিম ও তাঁর সহকর্ম্মী মন্ত্রিগণের অনেকেই শিরাজাবাপন্ন। সুপ্রিত জমাতের মুসলমানগণকে বিধ্বস্ত করা ও তাঁহাদিগকে বিপথে চালিত করাই তাদের একমাত্র লক্ষ্য এবং তাঁদের নেতা শিয়া জিন্নার নির্দ্দেশও তাহাই। তাঁহাদের মধ্যে কেহ কেহ যে রীতিমত মদ্য পান করেন, তাহাও অনেকেরই জানা আছে। এই অবস্থায় মাদকদ্রব্য নিবারণের চেয়ে মাদকদ্রব্যের অধিক প্রচলন হওয়াই স্বাভাবিক।

এইজন্য অদ্য আমি পরিষদের সেবকগণকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি যে আমার প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিয়া বাংলা দেশকে রক্ষা করুন। মন্ত্রীদের সঙ্গে সহযোগিতা করিয়া বাঙ্গালী জাতিকে মাতাল বানাইবেন না।

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 29,28,000 for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the fact that the Government are following a policy of patronising their friends and relatives in the matter of distribution of shop licenses in the province.

From this cut motion it is quite apparent as to what I mean to say. I want to draw the attention of the Government to this sort of practices that have become quite rampant in this matter of distribution of shop licenses. Government's attention has been drawn to these matters times without number, but I see that all the time it was in vain. So, I once more want to draw the attention of the Government to this matter.

First of all, Sir, the thing is that shop licences are generally given to those applicants who pay the highest amount of money to the authorities concerned by way of bribes and premium. And if that be not so, then it is given to the friends, relatives and other patrons of the Government, that is to say of some of the Ministers. These relatives, friends and patrons are serving the purpose and are supposed to serve the purpose of trumpeting the cause of the Ministers themselves.

There are numerous instances of such like bribery and nepotism and all these sorts of corrupt practices throughout the province. I do not like to take the time of the House in mentioning all those instances, but it will suffice if I mention but one instance. Now this instance happened with regard to the renewal of the shop licence at the premises No. 146B, Upper Circular Road, Calcutta. There it is a case of a shop licence for enabling the licence holder to sell country spirit. Formerly there was a shop just in front of the premises number that I have mentioned just now. The old licensee has been carrying on this business of country spirit and selling the same from a very good long time. There also he managed and controlled the drunkards well, as it was the case that the very old licensee used to live upstairs with his family including ladies and children.

Now, this old licensee has been removed and a license has been given to a new person who is quite an alien gentleman so far as the locality is concerned. He does not live there and as such he does not like to take so much interest for the comforts and peace of the local people who are residing surrounding this new shop. This new licensee is a new one so far as this country spirit business is concerned. He did not trade on this subject formerly. He only managed to get the license to sell country spirit only because he is a friend of some of the Ministers. This I know fully well. This new licensee is to be found always chatting and roaming with the Ministers and even some times when the Ministers go on touring on official business, he is found to accompany them. This is not all, Sir, perhaps, so far as my information goes, there are some arrangements made with this new licensee that some profits of this shop shall go to the pockets of one or two Ministers. I want to have a clear statement from the Minister of Excise on this point. If the Government be upright and honest, I know that they will have got to corroborate my statement by saying that what I have said just now is quite true and correct. So it is my earnest desire and request to this Government that they should not do all this sort of thing and in this case that I have just now mentioned they should give and renew the license to the same old licensee.

To one more thing, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government and that is that this business of intoxicating drugs is a business which mainly belongs to the scheduled castes people; to be more correct, to a particular sect of the scheduled castes people. So my earnest request to the Government is that this business of selling intoxicating drugs must go to

the scheduled castes people only. Nowadays people other than scheduled castes finding and smelling that there is money in it, are now trying their utmost to have license for this business; but it should always be the look-out of the Government that no people other than Scheduled Castes should be privileged to trade on this matter.

The new licensee whom I referred to at the beginning of my speech is not a scheduled caste gentleman. He is perhaps quite well known to most of the Government members, and I do not want to name him. Shall I name him? (Cries of "Yes", "yes" from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: No, it is not desirable.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: With these remarks, Sir, I want to move my cut motion for acceptance of the House.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 29,28,000 for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to experiment prohibition in selected areas.

Sir, prohibition is dead and buried deep. It was in 1938 that the first Fazlul Huq Government adopted prohibiton as its declared policy. Noakhali was selected as the first field of experiment and Comilla was scheduled to be the second. Since then we have heard nothing about prohibition except for once during the brief spell of the second Fazlul Huq Government, which reiterated a policy of gradual prohibition but failed to do anything having practically to spend all the time in fighting the unholy trinity of the Government House God, the Secretariat saboteers and the Clive Street clique.

Coming to the Muslim League Government of Sir Nazimuddin we find that they have had nothing to do with planned prohibition in any sense. They profess to believe in only one thing, viz., in the policy of an enhancement of excise duty with the two-fold object of increasing revenue and reducing consumption, as has been claimed by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his last budget speech. Mr. Goswami must feel very happy that in this respect his Government have caused no inconvenience to rich and fat-salaried people who can afford to pay more for a glass of drink but at the same time "the inflow of revenue" in his own words "has substantially increased while consumption has been consistently kept at the minimum level". He has assured us that he has a graphic chart prepared to substantiate this claim. But we people who are not initiated in the mystery of practical excise refuse to believe, in the absence of the graphic chart and its scrutiny, that the phenomenal increase of 2½ crores in Excise revenue in one year can really be accounted for by what Mr. Goswami calls "a steep up-grading of the rates of duty". Let us see if the Hon'ble Excise Minister, who for aught we know is a theoretical man in this subject, can produce Mr. Goswami's graphic chart of less drink and more revenue for our satisfaction.

Now, the queston is not whether the Government have been able to keep the consumption of excisable goods at the minimum level by keeping it limited within the reach of the richer people but the real question is whether the Government believe in prohibition and have taken steps even in a limited area and as an experimental measure to keep people—the rich and the poor alike—beyond the reach of the demon of drink.

It does not require much intelligence to appreciate that—at least in this country drinking is not merely not a necessity but is positively harmful. Any popular Government—whatever its composition—must adopt prohibition as a policy. If it is true of a popular Government generally, it must be a thousand times so of a Muslim Government because of the strict Quoranic injunction against drink. I do not know if it is because some of his colleagues who for reasons best known to themselves cannot take part in a crusade against the drink evil that Sir Nazimuddin cannot adopt a policy

of prohibition; or because of the fear of the resultant loss of the revenue. I do not want to insult Sir Nazimuddin by pinning on the former hypothesis but the latter also is no satisfactory answer for his indifference towards prohibition. You have no right to degrade and ruin your people by encouraging drink habit by your excise policy in order to replenish the exchequer which you have emptied by acts of inefficiency, corruption, jobbery and nepotism. Let me conclude by saying that in this respect Sir Nazimuddin's Government deserve severest condemnation by all people in the province, especially by Sir Nazimuddin's co-religionists.

Sir HENRY BIRKMYRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the demand for Excise there were 20 motions for reduction. Of those moved two out of three are on the old subject of prohibition. Their wording is the same and we have listened to the same old threadbare arguments as have been produced year after year. Sir, I am no prophet but I make bold to foretell that in his reply the Hon'ble Minister will again maintain—possibly on this occasion with all the emphasis at his command—that prohibition is still the ultimate goal of Government.

In our opinion, Sir, there is a complete lack of realism equally on the part of Government as of the Opposition. It is a matter of history that the greatest experiment of all time in prohibition failed and failed dismally. In the United States of America, prohibition did not curtail consumption of intoxicating liquor; it increased the desire for intoxicants with appalling results. Good quality liquor disappeared and its place was taken by poisons whose effect on the health of the people was disastrous. The business of supplying illicit liquor led to a crime wave, stupendous in the magnitude and efficiency of its organisation, which shook a great nation to its foundations. The measure of the results of prohibition on the public opinion of the United States was that for the first and only time in the history of the Republic, the necessary two-thirds majority was obtained to achieve an amendment of the constitution by the repeal of the Johnson Act.

If that were not enough, Government have, or should have, available for examination the reports on the working of prohibition in Bombay and Madras. It will, I have no doubt, be argued that the failure of prohibition in those two provinces was due to their being governed under section 93 of the Government of India Act. Sir, that argument just will not bear scrutiny. It is an accepted fact that section 93 Governments have attempted loyally to carry on the policies laid down by the previous Governments. The real reasons for the failure of prohibition are, first, illicit distillation, second, a general increase in crime, and last but not the least, public apathy.

Do honourable members seriously believe that prohibition could be effectively enforced in Bengal It is about as easy to distil illicit liquor in Bengal as it is to brew a cup of tea and it does not take very much longer. Moreover, the size of the province and the state of communications make it the easiest thing in the world to hide illicit stills and stocks of liquor.

The plain fact is that if people want to drink, they will drink. It is impossible and foolish to imagine that the passing of legislation will alter the habits of the people. It will only lead to other social evils, the worse because they will be underground.

I hope the Government will face the problem squarely and review their policy. To say that their policy is one of gradual prohibition when they expect to receive some 6 crores of revenue from Excise, shows complete lack of realism. In post-war years the yield cannot be expected to exceed some 2 crores, but can Government afford to forego even 2 crores of revenue? I say No. It is an impossibility—an impossibility as complete as Government's inability to meet the expenditure required to maintain the huge Preventive Staff which would be necessary to enforce prohibition.

In our opinion, Sir, Government's present policy of maximum revenue with minimum consumption is a sound one. In this connection it is interesting and satisfactory to note that despite the enormous increase in revenue, the volume of consumption remains unchanged. We consider that regulation of consumption by a strict policy of licensing and ruthless suppression of illicit distillation will, if coupled to education and moral persuasion towards temperate habits, achieve more lasting results than any act of legislation.

Sir, I oppose the motions for reduction.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no desire to intervene in this debate but the exhilarating discourse on prohibition to which we have just listened delivered by my honourable friend Sir Henry Birkmyre has provoked me to say a few words. I can quite appreciate Sir Henry Birkmyre's nervousness lest prohibition is introduced in this province. I can quite appreciate that some rooms at least in the Assembly chamber might go dry if prohibition is introduced in this province and Sir Henry Birkmyre will certainly not tolerate that. But that is no reason why a province like Bengal where the vast majority of its population have never touched a drop of liquor throughout their lives and have gone on from year to year without feeling the slightest want in their lives should not stand up for prohibition if the requisite lead is given by the Government of the province. I join issue with my honourable friend Sir Henry Birkmyre when he says that one of the reasons which killed prohibition in Madras and Bombay was public apathy. I am sure if Sir Henry Birkmyre would care to look deeper into this problem and its history in those provinces after the Congress Governments went out of office he would at once realise that it was not public apathy but want of the requisite lead from a nationally minded government which was responsible for such a disaster. If the Congress Government had not retired from office, I am sure they would have succeeded in keeping up that enthusiasm which they had created in those provinces in favour of prohibition and which had actually made prohibition an accomplished fact in those provinces.

Sir, I am afraid that the age-old cry of regulated licensed consumption is altogether out of date in the new order of things. The United States has failed to keep the flag of prohibition flying because the United States is populated by a people who require drink as one of their principal articles of consumption. That is not the case in this province. The ground is already prepared by nature; the ground is already prepared by the habits of its people, by their tradition, by their culture, by their ideals (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: and ethics) and by their ethics, as my honourable friend has reminded me. To apply to this province the standard of the United States, or for the matter of that any other western country, is wholly to misread the leanings and the predelictions of the people of this province. I hope, Sir, that the Government of the day, in spite of their frailties, will rise to the occasion and declare here and now that they still stand by that ideal and by that standard which has been set for this province once and for all and will try to implement the promises which had been given on the floor of this House before now. (Applause from Opposition benches.)

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards Prohibition, the policy of the Government is gradual prohibition. It is not possible to have prohibition all on a sudden. I am glad, Sir, that Sir Henry Birkmyre has given a correct hint that total prohibition is not possible, that total prohibition has failed in other provinces of India as well as in America and other parts of the world. Therefore it is not possible to have total prohibition all on a sudden as in Bengal there are opportunities and many materials by which the people will be able to distil illicit liquor by themselves and by doing this they will also ruin their health as the excise articles will not be standardised. What the Government will sell will be standardised

articles so that the health of the people may not be deteriorated. Again, Sir, with regard to the prohibition in the selected areas that was the policy adopted by the previous Government. Now we are following a policy of prohibition throughout the whole Province. Instead of totally abolishing excise shops in a particular area of a particular district we are following the policy of gradual prohibition by abolition of shops through the agency of the local Licensing Boards in each district. In 1943 we abolished 101 licenses throughout the Province. Last year we abolished 25 shops, and this year we have decided to abolish 28 shops with effect from the 1st April, 1945. We have not confined prohibition to a particular area, but, as I have said, we are trying to introduce prohibition throughout the whole Province where there is necessity, and in doing so we are acting according to the recommendation of the Licensing Boards the majority members of which body are non-officials. Only those shops are kept in the district which in the opinion of the Licensing Board are absolutely necessary. We only keep those shops and abolish others.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: What is the test of an essentially necessary shop.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: It depends entirely upon the recommendation of the Licensing Board of the district, the majority members of which are non-officials.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: What is the test?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: If the Board think that it is necessary to retain a particular shop, that shop is kept That is the only test.

As regards the increase of revenue, since 1941 with a view to introduce prohibition we have raised the duties of excisable articles from time to time, so that people will be forced to give up their habit of taking excisable articles, and, I think this is the best course which we can adopt.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What about Mr. Radhanath Das's point?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: I am coming to that.

Mr. Maqbul Hossain has also said that many new shops have been opened in the Noakhali district. I may say that up till now we have not opened any new shops except a few shops for the use of the military. These shops are managed by the military people for the use of the military personnel only.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is it not open to civil population?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: No, that is mainly for military.

Sir, I repeat that we have not as yet established any new shop. Wherever any new shop is to be opened, it is the policy of Government that "the approval of Government is necessary".

As regards the point raised by Babu Radhanath Das I may say that what he has said is absolutely false and without any foundation.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister come with me?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Whenever there is a vacancy in a shop, it is settled by the District Magistrate and in Calcutta by the Excise Collector. Government have nothing to do with excise shops.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: A new licence has been issued to a friend of the Hon'ble Minister's colleague.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: I do not know, whom does he mean. What is his name and which shop? Had he given the name of

he person to whom it is settled and the name of the shop then I could give n answer, but all of a sudden I cannot say anything. So far as this allegaion is concerned, I can say this that it is an absolute lie.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: This is unparliamentary.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: The allegation is totally incorect and it is without any foundation. Can any profit be shared by any Hon'ble Minister? I do not think it is possible.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: We have come to know this from some Hon'ble Ministers.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: If you give me definite names nd definite facts and figures, then I can enquire into the matter.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. My riend Mr. Radhanath Das was about to mention the name, but you have revented him from using the name. Is the Hon'ble Minister entitled to sk for names on the floor of the House? If the Hon'ble Minister desires Mr. Radhanath Das is prepared to give the name.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: He is Mr. Goswami.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: What?

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Not Hon'ble Mr. Goswami. His name in Bengali as we say is "গোসাই বাবু"

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Kulada Goswami.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: He has supplied many women and wine to amous men (Uproar.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please. Will you kindly resume your seat? It s not desirable that any names should be mentioned.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Sir, I was helpless. The Hon'ble Minister ranted the name.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Can any Hon'ble Minister share he profit of the excise shop?

Mr. P. BANERJI: It is a well known fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Barma, will you please come to the point?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Another point which my friend Mr. Radhanath Das has raised——

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: All the shops should be given to the Scheduled Castes (laughter).

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, I do not want to say anyhing more. I have finished.

The motion of Mr. Maqbul Hossain that the demand of Rs. 29,28,000 or expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100 o raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to undertake any omprehensive scheme of Prohibition, was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Radhanath Das that the demand of Rs. 29,28,000 for xpenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100 o raise a discussion about the fact that the Government are following a olicy of patronising their friends and relatives in the matter of distribution f shop licenses in the province, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar that the demand of Rs. 29,28,000 or expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100 o raise a discussion about the prohibition policy, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari Barma that a sum of Rs. 29,28,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" was then put and a division called.

(After the division bell had rung.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, you wanted to say something. What is that?

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I understand that the cut motion regarding prohibition which was moved by Mr. Atul Chandra Sen was, through the inadvertence, not put before the House. If that is so, you might revise your decision and call for a vote on that cut motion. I am not sure whether that is a fact or not.

Mr. SPEAKER: The position is this: It appears that there has been some misconception. I permitted Mr. Sen to move a reduction motion. I thought that he asked my permission to move the cut motion standing in the name of Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar who has been absent and I have always been under the impression that because that cut motion was selected by some member of his party, so in the absence of Mr. Kumar, Mr. Sen asked my permission to move that motion and that is why I put that cut motion before the House. Now I am told by Mr. Sen that he had not moved that motion but he had actually moved another motion which stood in his name, viz., "to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to experiment prohibition in selected areas". I have been under the impression that the motion that stood in the name of Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar had been moved.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: If that is so, and if Professor Sen did not move Mr. Kumar's motion, which according to the standing practice he ought to have done, then it was a mistake on his part and therefore that led to this mistake. In that view of the matter we stand by the previous practice and do not press for this motion. We take it that Mr. Kumar's motion has been moved.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, as the mistake originated with us and not with the Chair we do not press for the motion

Mr. SPEAKER: Then in that case I shall put the main motion again.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari Barma that a sum of Rs. 29,28,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" was then put and agreed to.

9—Stamps.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 7,05,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps".

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,05,000 under the head "9—Stamps" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about the bribery and illegal gratification by the stamp vendors in the mofussil courts and in Sealdah and Alipore Courts of Calcutta.

Sir, by my cut motion I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the selling of stamps and stamp papers by the stamp vendors in the courts mentioned in my cut motion. Generally, now-a-days the practice is this: Whenever anybody approaches them to have stamps or stamp papers they generally refuse to sell them saying that there is no stamp or stamp paper with them at the present moment and that everything has been sold out. They also say that Government now-a-days supply smaller quantities of stamps and stamp papers to them for sale. But surreptitiously what they do is this, that they sell those stamps and stamp papers to the persons who pay more than the actual price for them, that is to say, they are now selling

these stamps and stamp papers at a premium of two annas or more to a rupee. When everywhere there is black-marketing going on they have perhaps thought fit for themselves that they should also carry on black-marketing in stamps and stamp papers and they had very creditably done and have been doing this since a good long time, say, for about two years by throwing dust into the eyes of the authorities very successfully. The pleaders and advocates who are practising there—though it is known to them quite well like many other such corrupt practices—cannot ventilate these things to others or to the authorities concerned publicly, because if they do so their practice will suffer. Sir, the clients would not be coming to them because they will think that their pleaders are unable to procure stamps and stamp papers for their use. Moreover, there is another important thing and that is that these stamps and stamp papers are generally required very urgently and hastily for their being used for the purpose of their clients and they want these stamps and stamp papers as early as possible because it is the very first and foremost object of the clients as well as of the pleaders. Otherwise their cases may suffer. So, naturally this matter, viz., the exacting of more money than the actual price of those stamps and stamp papers are going on unhampered. So my request to the Government is that they should draw their attention to some extent to this direction so that black-marketing in stamps and stamp papers may be stopped. Another no less important matter to which I should draw the attention of the Government is that in almost all cases of stamp vendors in courts, the Government is totally ignoring the interests of scheduled caste people. The Government is not giving any chance to scheduled caste people as stamp vendors to sell stamps and stamp papers to the litigant public or to those people who require them for their use. I think but I stand subject to correction, of course that there is not a single scheduled caste stamp vendor in any court throughout the province. If that be the case I should say to the Government that they are really not looking to the cause of the scheduled caste people. And for this I hold the scheduled caste Ministers mainly responsible.

With these remarks I move my cut motion.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,05,000 for expenditure under the head "9.—Stamps" be reduced by Rs. 100 with a view to raising a discussion about the cost of judicial and non-judicial stamps.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়! আমি ষ্ট্যাম্প সম্বন্ধে এখানে কিছু বলিতে ইচ্ছা করি। প্রথমে ষ্ট্যাম্পের হার কিরূপ বাড়ান হইয়াছে সেইটা দেখাইতেছি।

* * * * * (indistinct.)

৭৫৲ টাকা হইতে ৫০০৲ টাকার যে মামলা-মোকদ্দমা করা হয় এবং যে সমস্ত জমিদার খাজনার টাকার নালিশ করেন এঁদের খরচের টাকা যা দিতে হয় তা সমস্তই প্রজাদের কাছ থেকে আদায় করা হয়। মধ্যবিত্ত প্রজার পক্ষে খাজনা দেওয়াই কষ্টকর, তদুপরি এই অতিরিক্ত খরচ চাপানের কোন যুক্তি নাই। বড় লোকের বেলা কম, আর মধ্যবিত্তের বেলা হার বেশী হওয়ার কোন মানে দেখিতেছি না। আমি রেভিনিউ মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করি তিনি এ বিষয়ে অনুসন্ধান করিয়া যাহাতে সমান rate ধার্য্য হয় তাহার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন। যেমন non-judicial stamp এর বেলা ১০০৲ টাকায় ১।।০ টাকা হইলে ১,০০০৲ টাকার ১৫৲ টাকা এবং তাহাতে কোন পার্থক্য বিধান করা হয় নাই এখানে মধ্যবিত্ত ও গরীবের বেলায় ঐরূপ না করিয়া harrass করিবার ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে কেন? আমি অনুরোধ করি তিনি এ বিষয় বিবেচনা করিয়া দেখিবেন।

এই প্রসঙ্গে যে কথা রাধানাথ দাস মহাশয় বলিয়াছেন তাহার মূল কারণ কি তাহা আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে জানাইতেছি। Stamp Vendor দের পূর্ব্বে যে রেটে কমিশন দেওয়া হইত এখনও সেই রেটই আছে। এই দুর্দ্দিনেও তাহাদের কমিশনের অংশ বাড়ান হয় নাই। অথচ প্রত্যেক জিনিষের মূল্য অতিরিক্ত বাড়িয়া গিয়াছে এবং পেটের দায়ে তাহাদিগকে অতিরিক্ত খরচ করিয়া চালাইতে হইতেছে। সেই জন্যই তাহারা ঐ অন্যায়ভাবে ঘুষ লইবার ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করিয়াছে। প্রত্যেক পাড়াগাঁয়ে ১৲ টাকার ষ্ট্যাম্প ১৵০ আনায় কমে বিক্রি করা

যায় না। এটা সর্ব্ববাদীসম্মত যে ষ্ট্যাম্পের নির্দ্ধারিত মূল্যে মফঃস্বল area র ষ্ট্যাম্প পাওয়া যায় না। ষ্ট্যাম্প ভেণ্ডারদের কমিশনের হার বাড়াইয়া দিলে এই দুর্নীতি দূর হইবে। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করি তিনি অনতিবিলম্বে এই দুর্নীতি মোচন করিবার ব্যবস্থা করুন।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আর একটা কথা বলি যে বর্ত্তমানে অন্য জেলার কথা জানি না তবে চট্টগ্রাম কালেক্টারীতে যে কোন প্রকারের দরখাস্ত দিবার প্রয়োজন হইলে ৸০ আনার কমে দরখাস্ত দিবার উপায় নাই। পূর্ব্বে এ অসুবিধা ছিল না। যে কোন সাদা কাগজে দরখাস্ত দিলেই তাহার সুব্যবস্থা হইত। এমন কি একটা দরখাস্ত দিবার সময় মাত্র ৵০ আনাতেই হইত। এখন সেই রেট বাড়াইয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছে তাহাতেও সঙ্গে সঙ্গে পাওয়া যায় না। তাহার সঙ্গে একটা enquiry form করা হইয়াছে যাহার জন্য আবার ৸০ আনা দিতে হয়। তাহার উপর যাতায়াত ইত্যাদি ধরিয়া ৫/৭৲ টাকা খরচ হইয়া যায়।

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এ বিষয়ে তদন্ত করিয়া বাংলার জনসাধারণের দুরবস্থা দূর করুন।

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, the total demand of Rs. 7,05,000 under this head is very small compared to the expected income of about three crores of rupees from this source. In reply to the two cut motions I would like to submit that the prices of court-fee stamps are remaining practically the same since 1922. Only in 1939 the scales of fees for probates, letters of administration and succession certificates have been increased and that too with the approval of the Legislature. So at the present time when the price of everything has gone up there is hardly any justification to reduce the price of judicial and non-judicial stamps.

As regards the charges of bribery and illegal gratification against the stamp vendors I may say that Government has no information of any such crime being committed by the stamp vendors. Crimes of this nature can only be successfully controlled if the public wholeheartedly co-operate with Government. Government cannot have any machinery to go out and check these crimes. So these crimes can be controlled and stopped if the public only actively co-operates with the authorities concerned. But whenever any such thing is brought to the notice of Government it is always very strongly dealt with.

Sir, I have nothing further to add and I oppose both the motions. Only one word more I would add, Sir, regarding the appointment of scheduled castes as vendors. Sir, vendors are appointed on the honesty and integrity of the persons concerned by the Collectors themselves and Government has nothing to do with such appointments.

The Communal Ratio Rules do not apply in the appointment of vendors who are not paid officers but only get a commission. If suitable Scheduled Caste candidates are available, I am sure their cases will be sympathetically considered.

Sir, with these words I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Babu Radhanath Das that the demand of Rs. 7,05,000 for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the bribery and illegal gratification by the stamp vendors in the mofussil courts and in Sealdah and Alipore Courts of Calcutta, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 7,05,000 for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the cost of judicial and non-judicial stamps, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea that a sum of Rs. 7,05,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps" was then put and agreed to.

10—Forest.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 33,48,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "10—Forest".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the demand of Rs. 33,48,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in allowing supply of timber from the forest indiscriminately resulting in denudation of the forest.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject is so vast and so complicated that the time that is sought to be allowed to me is absolutely inadequate for the purpose. Sir, I have got a grievance against the Government and, if I am allowed to say so, against the Speaker also for allotting short time for such an important subject. It is regrettable that the importance of the subject is not considered—it has not been considered in the past, it is not considered in the present and, I am afraid, it will not be considered in the future—resulting in affecting the interests of the whole population of Bengal.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is admitted on all hands that the denudation of forests—deforestation—causes floods as the beneficial effect of forests lies in their influences in conserving the supply of water for natural springs and reservoirs and in regulating the flow of streams and rivers. The first influence of the destruction of forests is caused by the diminution of moisture content of the land, diminution of perennial springs, increase of floods and the gradual reduction of cultivation. It is admitted by all authorities on erosion that one of the greatest calamities which has overtaken mankind has been the destruction of forests and the consequent erosion of the land surface. Everyone in Bengal is aware that the delta is built up of silt brought down by rivers from eroded areas in the mountains and plains of Upper India. It is not known to all that in our district of British Tippera there is no forest but there is a forest close to the British Tippera in the Tripura State. The floods in Gumti and the silting up of our rivers, viz., Titash and Dakatia which are the main sources of navigation and irrigation, are due to the indiscriminate denudation of forests in the Tripura hills and Government do not think it their duty to stop the mischief due to deforestation. I do hereby draw the attention of the Government and I do beseech them that they should take immediate steps of moving the Government of India. They cannot take steps for stopping deforestation of the Tripura hills. So they should immediately move the Government of India to stop denudation of forests in the Tripura State.

Sir, war has caused untold miseries upon the people. It has caused the greatest permanent mischief by indiscriminately denuding forests as is shown by the report in the red book. From the revenue receipts in the red book at page 1, it will be found that the income from "Forest" in the year 1941-42 was Rs. 32,17,000, in the year 1942-43 it was Rs. 38,37,000, in the year 1944-45 it has risen up to Rs. 70,31,000, and the estimated revenue this year is Rs. 61,64,000. This revenue, Sir, is not due to the expansion of the forests, but if you refer to page 16 of the red book you will find that this is due to the fact that the sale of timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency was Rs. 4,52,000 in the year 1941-42. In the year 1944-45 this was Rs. 16 lakhs and the revised estimate was Rs. 25 lakhs and the present estimate of the year 1945-46 is also Rs. 25 lakhs. Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers—in the year 1941-42 was Rs. 27,72,000, in the year 1942-43 it was Rs. 25,25,000 and the present year revised estimate is Rs. 38 lakhs and the budget estimate for the year 1945-46 is Rs. 33 lakhs. On analysing these figures, it comes to this that in the year 1941-42 the sale of timber and other produce done by Government agencies and those removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers amounted to Rs. 32,24,000 and in the course of a year and a half it has come up to Rs. 63 lakhs, that is it has almost doubled. So, the income from the forests has not doubled by the expansion of the forests but the income from the forests has doubled on account of the sale of timber and other produce either by Government agency or by the purchasers or consumers. It is well-known to all of us that this is due to war conditions.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, war has brought untold miseries upon the people. War has deteriorated the condition of the people and it will bring permanent mischief to the people. Sir, the war is not for the independence of India, but the war is for the perpetuation of slavery of our country. This is a matter, Sir, to which the attention of Government ought to have been drawn earlier.

With these few words, Sir, I move my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Before I take my seat, I want to say one word. Of course I do not mean any disrespect to the Hon'ble Minister, but it is a subject which is a very important subject and this subject requires technical knowledge and consideration. But, Sir, this subject is in charge of a junior Minister in the sense that it is always placed in charge of a Minister as if it is not very important. I think, Sir, that it is a very important subject and ought to be dealt with at great length. I hope honourable members of this House will attach great importance to it, because it is a subject causing great deterioration in the country and causing permanent mischief. If the mischief is not checked, in the course of 50 years Bengal will be a barren country.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 33,48,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the deforestation of huge area lying uncultivated and unproductive in Chittagong and other districts specially in the following places, viz., Chakaria, Sunderban, Ringvom Rampur and Thainkhali in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, for growing more paddy as well as for increasing Government finance.

Sir, আমি এই ফরেষ্ট বিষয়ে ২।৪টি কথা বলিতে ইচ্ছা করি। একথা আমি গত ২ বৎসর ধরিয়া অনেকবার বলিয়াছি--

Mr. SPEAKER: খাঁ বাহাদুর সাহেব! আপনি একটু নিকটে এসে বলুন, তা নাহলে রিপোর্টারেরা বুঝতে পারেন না।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: সাহেবেরা আপত্তি করেন।

Mr. SPEAKER: না, সাহেবরা আপত্তি করবেন না--

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDURY: আমি যে কথাটা এখানে আলোচনা করিতেছি সেটা যে কতদূর দরকারী তা গত দু'বৎসর ধরিয়া বলা সত্ত্বেও আপনারা বোধ হয় অনুমান করিতে পারিতেছেন না। চট্টগ্রামে রামপুর, চখরিয়া, সুন্দরবন, রং বং থাইনখালির কয়েকটি ফরেষ্টে বহু জমি পতিত জমি হিসাবে পড়িয়া আছে। সেখানে কোন ভাল জঙ্গল ত দূরের কথা এমন কি আলানী কাষ্ঠ নাই বলিলেই হয়। খাঁ বাহাদুর জালালুদ্দিন সাহেব এখানে আছেন; তিনি সে বিষয় নিশ্চয় জানেন। অথচ তাঁহাদের মন্ত্রিসভা কেন যে ফরেষ্টের আওতা হইতে এগুলি ছাড়িতেছেন না তা বুঝিতে পারিতেছি না। এ জমিগুলি ফরেষ্ট বিভাগে রাখায় তাহা হইতে কোন আয় হইতেছে না। এই জমিগুলি C.A. সার্ভের সময় লাল জমি ছিল। নিশ্চয় সেখানে কোন ভাল কাঠ করিতে পারিবে আশা করিয়া লাল জমি জঙ্গলে পরিণত করে; কিন্তু সেখান সোনা জলের এলাকা বলিয়া সেখানে কোন ভাল কাঠ হয় না এবং হইবে না। তার কতক অংশ কক্স বাজার এলাকায় বদরখালি কো-অপারেটিভ ডিপার্টমেণ্ট দ্বারা আবাদ করা হইয়াছে তাহাতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কমপক্ষে ৩ লক্ষ-৪ লক্ষ মণ ধান পান; কিন্তু সেই area হইতে এই area প্রায় একশ গুণ বেশী। সেই সামান্য areaতে যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট ৩ লক্ষ মণ ধান পান, তাহলে এই একশগুণ জমি ছাড়িলে কত লক্ষ মণ ধান পাইবেন তাহা অনুমান করুন। কিন্তু ফরেষ্ট ডিপার্টমেণ্ট নিজের আওতা হইতে সে জমি ছাড়িয়া দিতেছেন না। আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের সঙ্গে একবার আলাপ করিয়াছি; তিনি বলিয়াছেন, যুদ্ধের পরে আমাদের সৈন্যগণ দ্বারা প্রাণ দিবার জন্য আমাদের এখানে উপস্থিত হইয়াছে তাহাদিগকে দিবার জন্য জমিটা রাখিয়াছি। আমি তাহাতে বলি যদি তাও রাখিতে হয় লোকের আপত্তি নাই, কিন্তু সম্প্রতি temporary বন্দোবস্ত হিসাবে জমিটা আবাদ করিয়া ধান জমি করিবার ব্যবস্থা করুন। ধানী জমি হইলে তাহাদের লোককে অথবা মন্ত্রিদলের লোকদের কাকেও কাকেও জমিটা দিতে পারিবেন; তখন তাহারা লাল জমি পাইবে। এখন খিলা জমি জনসাধারণের জন্য ছাড়িয়া দিলে বা কোন সম্প্রদায়কে ছাড়িয়া দিলে এবং

ভাতে ধান উৎপন্ন করার ব্যবস্থা করিলে বাংলা দেশে খাদ্যের অনটন কিছু লাঘব হইবে। আমি বারবার একথা বলিয়াছি এবং আজও বলিতেছি এবং আপনাদের দলের নেতাগণকে ও সকলকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি আপনারা পার্টি মিটিংএ এ বিষয় বিবেচনা করিয়া করেষ্ট ডিপার্টমেণ্ট হইতে ছাড়াইয়া রেভেনিউ ডিপার্টমেণ্টে বা এগ্রিকালচারাল ডিপার্টমেণ্টের হাতে জমিটা দিলে নিশ্চয়ই আগামী অগ্রহায়ণ মাসের মাঝখানে আপনারা কমপক্ষে ৫০ লক্ষ মণ ধান্য বেশী পাইবেন। তাহাতে আমার লাভ নাই, আপনাদেরই লাভ হইবে।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি বলিতেছি যে করেষ্ট ডিপার্টমেণ্ট জ্বালানী কাঠের উপর একটা huge tax আদায় করিতেছে। মাঝখানে ট্যাক্স বন্ধ ছিল। কিন্তু এই দুই বৎসর জ্বালানী কাঠের উপর কেন ট্যাক্স আদায় করা হইতেছে তাহা বর্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর শাসননীতিই হয়ত বুঝিতে পারে। বর্তমানে জ্বালানী কাঠের অভাব বাংলার সর্বত্র এই লোকে অনুভব করিতেছে। ট্যাক্সের কারণে জ্বালানী কাঠ পাওয়া লোকের পক্ষে একরূপ অসম্ভব, গরীবের পক্ষে ত কথাই নাই। এই ট্যাক্সের তাড়নায় কাঠ নামাইতে না পারায় লক্ষ্মীর লাভ দিন দিন বাড়িয়া যাইতেছে, সঙ্গে সঙ্গে কয়লার দামও বিশেষরূপ বাড়িতেছে।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আর একটি কথা বলিতেছি--বাঁশের কথা। চট্টগ্রামে একটা বাঁশের দাম আগে ছিল ৵০ আনা বর্তমানে সেখানে একটা বাঁশের দাম ১৲ টাকা।

Mr. SPEAKER : ৭টার আগেই এটা শেষ করতে চাই। আপনি শীঘ্র বোধে শেষ করুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY : বাঁশের দাম ঐরূপ বাড়ার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে শণ ঘাস যার এক বোঝার দাম ছিল ।০ আনা তার দাম এখন হইয়াছে ১৲ টাকা ৪৲ টাকা। এই অবস্থায় করেষ্ট ডিপার্টমেণ্ট তাহাদের বাঁশ, বেত, শণ,--এই সব জিনিস বা কম ট্যাক্সে ছাড়িয়া না দিলে গরীবের আগামী বর্ষাকালে ঘরে থাকিবার উপায় থাকিবে না। গত বর্ষাকালে আপনারা না আসিতে পারেন- কিন্তু আমার গ্রামের অভিজ্ঞতা আছে, তাতে আমি বলিতে পারি যে শতকরা ১০টা বাড়ী বাসের উপযুক্ত ছিল না। আমি দেখিয়াছি পাহাড়ে খাদি করিয়া সেখানে দেশবাসীরা বাস করিতেছে। উপরে জঙ্গল দেওয়া থাকে। আর বর্ষা এলে নীচে আসে। মনেরের বাড়ী নাই, ঘর নাই, থাকিবার উপায় নাই। বর্ষা আসিলে এবং শীতকালে বৃষ্টি হইলে কি অবস্থা দাঁড়ায় তা এখন অনুমান করুন।

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 33,48,000 for expenditure under the head "10- Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about non-appointment of Scheduled Castes in the services under the Forest Department up to 15 per cent. in Bengal.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 33,48,000 for expenditure under the head "10- Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government with regard to Forest and the Fishing in the Sunderbans Forest.

স্যার এই বন বিভাগের কথা বলতে গেলে সর্বপ্রথমে আমাদের দৃষ্টি পতিত হয় এই বন বিভাগের কর্মচারী নিয়োগের বিষয়ে। যদিও বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট ১৯৩৭ সাল থেকে এই বিভাগটা আমাদের তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির একজন না একজন মাননীয় মন্ত্রীর হাতে দিয়েছেন, যদিও বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট Scheduled Caste এর জন্য শতকরা ১৫টা চাকরী স্থির করেছেন তবু আমরা দেখতে পাই এই বন বিভাগে আজ পর্যন্ত যে চাকরী দেওয়া হয়েছে তাতে শতকরা ১৫টা ত দূরের কথা শতকরা যে কত তা সংখ্যায় বলা যায় না। এই বন বিভাগের কার্য্য হচ্ছে বনের বিষয়ে তত্ত্বাবধান করা।

বাংলার মানুষ সাধারণতঃ যে যে ব্যবসায় অবলম্বন ক'রে জীবিকানির্বাহ করে, সে সেই ব্যবসায়ের প্রতি লক্ষ্য রেখে তাদের বাসস্থান নির্বাচন করে। তপশীলভুক্ত জাতি সাধারণতঃ কৃষি এবং অন্যান্য যেসব ব্যবসায় দ্বারা জীবিকানির্বাহ করেন, তাতে ইঁহাদের পক্ষে বিল, খাল, নদী ও বন বা জঙ্গলের নিকটে বাস করা সুবিধাজনক; তাই দেখা যায় জঙ্গলের নিকটবর্তী স্থানে অধিকাংশ তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির বাস। অথচ সেই বনের ভিতরে ও বনের বাহিরে--বন বিভাগে যে সমস্ত কর্মচারী নিয়োগ করা হয়েছে সেটা তাদের মধ্য থেকে না কোথে দূর থেকে আনা হয়েছে। হয়ত D.F.O.র মত উচ্চ চাকরীর জন্য উপযুক্ত লোক পাওয়া যায় না, কিন্তু বনের গার্ড বা ঐরূপ চাকরীর জন্য যথেষ্ট লোক পাওয়া যায়। আজ পর্যন্ত এ বিষয়ে কেউ লক্ষ্য করেন নি।

তারপর সুন্দরবনে যে জঙ্গল আছে সেখানে বাংলা দেশের অন্যান্য সব জায়গা থেকে নদী বেশী আছে এবং সেই নদীতে মাছও প্রচুর পাওয়া যায়। আজ কলিকাতা শহরে যত মাছ আসে তার অধিকাংশই ঐ সুন্দরবনের ভিতর থেকেই আসে। অথচ আজ কয়েক বৎসর কাল দেখা যাচ্ছে যে সেই মৎস্য ব্যবসায়ীর উপর গভর্ণমেণ্ট

থেকে নানা রকম বাধা-বিঘ্ন এমনভাবে সৃষ্টি করা হচ্ছে যে মাছ ধরা এবং কলিকাতায় মাছ আনা অসম্ভব করে তোলা হচ্ছে। ইহার ফলে তারা তাদের জীবিকানির্বাহের পথ একেবারে হারাতে বসেছে। কিছুদিন তাদের নৌকা নিয়ে যেতে দেওয়া হয়নি, তার পরে যদিও নৌকা নিয়ে যেতে দেওয়া হ'ল কিন্তু তাদের নৌকার পথ এমনভাবে নির্দিষ্ট করা হ'ল যে সেই সুন্দরবন থেকে মাছ এনে কলিকাতায় পেঁাছে দেওয়া যায় না। কাল অন্নের সঙ্কট, আজ বস্ত্রের সঙ্কট, হয়ত ২ দিন পরে দেখা যাবে কলিকাতায় মাছের সঙ্কট, কলিকাতায় মাছের সঙ্কট ইতিমধ্যেই দেখা দিয়াছে, এবং এই মাছের সঙ্কট শুধু কলিকাতায় নয় বাংলার বহু স্থানেই এসে উপস্থিত হয়েছে।

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, with regard to the cut motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta, I beg to say that broadly speaking the policy of Government is to conserve all valuable forests in order to maintain local and provincial supplies of timber and fuel, and to protect the country-side against flood and drought. The sole object with which State forests are administered is the public benefit. The exploitation of forest produce and regeneration go side by side according to prescriptions of working plans which are based on science and framed by scientific experts of the Forest Department. Repeated and persistent demands were made on the floor of the Assembly for releasing portions of reserved and protected forests especially in the district of Chittagong for agricultural purpose to meet the needs of the growing population and for grazing purpose, but the Forest Department as they have always followed a cautious policy of conservation have only disafforested plots not containing valuable timber and those portions of protected forest which have been damaged beyond recovery. Although it must be admitted that some advance fellings are unavoidable at the moment to meet the abnormal and heavy demands of the Defence Services which are imperative but the excess fellings are being regulated according to plan. Deviations from normal working plans are carefully scrutinized and specifically sanctioned before any excess felling is resorted to. A special circle has been created temporarily with a third Conservator in charge of the forest utilisation, research and working plans work to ensure careful planning of advance fellings. So, it is not a fact that indiscriminate felling is done in the forest.

With regard to the point raised about the denudation of the forest in Tippera Hills, I submit that these forests do not belong to this Government. All I can say is that if this is a fact I can bring it to the notice of the Government of India, so that they may take necessary steps to stop the denudation of the forest in those areas.

With regard to the cut motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury about the deforestation of huge area lying uncultivated and unproductive in Chittagong and other districts, some lands may be made available by reclamation but the point is that these forests are protective forests and do the work of protecting those areas from tidal waves. If they are not there, then those areas will soon become saline areas where no cultivation will be possible. In 1940 a Committee was appointed to investigate into the question whether these forests should be deforested or not. The majority of the Committee reported that deforestation was not possible because great harm would be done to the existing forests. Therefore nothing was done in that direction.

So far as the question of cultivation is concerned, I may assure the honourable member that the Forest Department was granting permits to cultivate wherever possible whenever applications were made for permits. Permits have been given in Chittagong and other districts. Now-a-days in Chittagong, Chakaria, Sundarban and other places lands which were cultivated from a very long time are not cultivated for want of labour because people have taken to military work.

With regard to the cut motion of Mr. Patiram Roy regarding forest services, I may tell the honourable member that the forest services require special knowledge. For the Bengal Forest Service the minimum qualification

is honours in Chemistry, Botany or Zoology. So, it is not possible always to get suitable men from the Scheduled Castes for this service. Last year we got a suitable man after a great deal of difficulty and in his case we had to condone disabilities of age and other things. As regards other services we are trying our best to get suitable men from the Scheduled Castes to fill up vacancies according to Communal Ratio Rules.

As regards Sundarbans, permits are freely given to those who want to go in for fishing in Sundarbans. But if any difficulties are placed in the way of any one, I shall be glad to look into that case if my attention is drawn to it.

With these few words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House. I also oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 33,48,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in allowing supply of timber from the forest indiscriminately resulting in denudation of the forest, was then put and lost

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 33,48,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the deforestation of huge area lying uncultivated and unproductive in Chittagong and other districts specially in the following places, viz., Chakaria, Sundarban, Ringvom, Rampur and Thainkhali in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, for growing more paddy as well as for increasing Government finance, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 33,48,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about non-appointment of Scheduled Castes in the services under the Forest Department up to 15 per cent in Bengal, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 33,48,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government with regard to Forest and the Fishing in the Sundarbans Forest, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari Barma that a sum of Rs. 33,48,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" was then put and agreed to.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

13—Other Taxes and Duties.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 7,82,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,82,000 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100.

In this connection I would like to invite the attention of this House to some of the anomalies of the Sales Tax and also, if you would so permit, generally to speak on some of the items covered by this grant, particularly about the electricity duty.

Mr. SPEAKER: Oh! yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With regard to the Sales Tax, Sir, last year during the Budget discussion I had invited the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to various methods in which the Sales Tax was either being evaded by certain categories of persons who got special exemption under section 6 of certain other classes of persons who were compelled to pay the

Sales Tax where justice and fairness demands that they should not be so penalised. To-day, Sir, I want to repeat those arguments but I will not quote the same, and I invite the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to my observations of the previous year because, Sir, although he promised to look into the matter things remain in these respects just the same as they were before. In addition to that I have one or two observations to make.

In the first place I want to invite the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that the Sales Tax Act, as it is now enacted, leaves great scope for double taxation although there was not the slightest intention of taxing the same commodity twice in the process from the manufacturer to the consumer. As at present I am advised that even in the matter of cloth which is requisitioned by Government and after Government's requisition cloth and yarn both of which are sent to District Magistrates or Subdivisional Officers, are required to pay Sales Tax when a handling agent just takes delivery of the same on behalf of the Provincial Textile Controller from the wholesaler or the quota-holder. He is not dealing with the commodity at all, yet he has to pay sales tax to the wholesale dealer concerned.

Then, Sir, when that handling agent or a transport agent takes it on the authority of the Provincial Textile Controller to the Subdivisional Officer, the Subdivisional Officer or the District Magistrate concerned has to pay sales tax to the dealer, for money is to be collected from him on account of the bales of cloth or yarn. An interesting case arose when the District Magistrate of Chittagong did not know his position a few weeks ago in the matter. He said, "I am receiving it on account of the Government and I am passing it on to a certain dealer". But he was advised by the department that as matters stand at present he has got to pay the sales tax So the District Magistrate pays a sales tax and the handling agent also pays the sales tax as both are unregistered dealers. I presume if there is another handling agent to clear the goods from the railway station at the destination and to keep the same in the godown after giving money to the sender only to redistribute them to retailers locally, he has got to pay a sales tax. I submit that when the Act was enacted none of these levies were contemplated.

Further, there have been cases in which although we intended to exempt the poor man's burden from the sales tax, impositions are being levied. I take, for example, the case of charcoal for the producer gas plant. Under the present scheme of exemption transport organisations are exempted: railways are exempted: steamer services are exempted; and even motor service owners who have to purchase other stuff are exempted if they are an organised transport. When they purchase coal, coal is exempted. It was thought that coal would cover coke. Coke is also mentioned as exempted but Sir, charcoal is not exempted although firewood is exempted. So I say there is some lacuna there—one word is missing there. The funniest thing is that while even charcoal for domestic purposes corresponding to firewood and coke demands exemption and could possibly make out a case for exemption, Government themselves have controlled the price of charcoal for producer gas plant and in controlling that price they have not taken into account the duty that has to be paid for sales tax and yet, Sir, when a proper representation was made to the Finance Department, Government felt that this was a matter in which they could not intervene and could not extend the application of exemption to charcoal as well.

I submit, Sir, that similarly handloom cloth and various categories of products from handloom which were intended to be exempted on the price basis, the price having been now fixed at a fairly high level, did not get exemption even for the poor man. At the present moment, Sir, as you are all aware, the prices of even coarse handloom cloth are very, very high. When the idea was to exempt certain categories of handloom products we represented that instead of price factor let the count of yarn used in the warp and woof be the guiding principle, and I submit, Sir, that Government will

look into this defect and give relief in the manner as it was originally intended and even if it was not intended justice and fairplay demands that certain amount of relief should be given at the present moment. (Here the red light was on and the time was up.)

With these words I move my motion.

Mr. MAQBUL HOSSAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,82,000 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to earmark the proceeds of the raw jute sales tax for the improvement of the jute growers.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট কাঁচা পাট বিক্রয় ট্যাক্সের প্রাপ্য টাকা পাটচাষীদের উন্নতি-কল্পে ব্যয় করবার বরাদ্দ করিতে অক্ষম হওয়ায় আমি এই ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিলাম।

ইং ১৯৪১ সনে কাঁচা পাট বিক্রয়ের উপর ট্যাক্স ধার্য্যের আইন পাশ হওয়ার পর হইতে, ইং ১৯৪২-৪৩ হইতে ইং ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সন পর্য্যন্ত এই ট্যাক্স দ্বারা আয় হয়েছে এক কোটি এক লক্ষ ৭৭ হাজার টাকা, এবং ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সনের আয় ধরা হয়েছে ২৫ লক্ষ টাকা। এই যে টাকা পাটচাষীদের নিকট হইতে পরোক্ষভাবে আদায় করা হইতেছে তাহা যদি পাটচাষীর উন্নতির জন্য, যথা পাটচাষের জমির উর্বরতা বৃদ্ধি, সর্ব্বোৎকৃষ্ট পাট উৎপাদন, চাষীর স্বাস্থ্য ও তাদের ছেলে-মেয়েদের লেখাপড়ার জন্য উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা ও চাষের বীজ, পশু ইত্যাদি যাবতীয় বস্তুর খরচের জন্য পৃথকভাবে রাখা হইত এবং প্রয়োজনমত খরচ করা হইত তাহা হইলে দেশের প্রভূত কল্যাণ সাধিত হইত। পাটচাষী মাথার ঘাম পায়ে ফেলিয়া যে পাট উৎপাদন করিতেছে, তাহার উপযুক্ত মূল্যত সে পাইতেছেই না অধিকন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্টের এই আইন পাশ করার ফলে পাটের মূল্য কমিয়া গিয়াছে। বাংলার সকল স্থানে পাট উৎপন্ন হয় না। পূর্ব্ব বাংলা ও উত্তর বাংলার কতক কতক স্থানে পাট উৎপন্ন হয়। পৃথিবীর মধ্যে একমাত্র বাংলার এই দুইটি স্থানই পাট প্রধান স্থান বলিয়া বিখ্যাত। যে পাট পৃথিবীতে দুষ্প্রাপ্য, যাহার জন্য ইউরোপ, আমেরিকার শিল্পপতিগণ বাংলার মুখাপেক্ষী, সেই পাট যারা উৎপন্ন করে তাহাদের উন্নতির জন্য আমাদের তথাকথিত জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রিসভা কিছুই করিতেছেন না। পাটচাষীর উন্নতির জন্য কাঁচা পাটের উপর ধার্য্য ট্যাক্সের একটা ন্যায়সঙ্গত অংশ বাংলার রাজস্ব হইতে পৃথক করে রাখিয়া প্রতি বৎসর পাটচাষীর উন্নতির জন্য খরচ করা আবশ্যক। আজ পাটচাষীর দুরবস্থার দিকে কেহই লক্ষ্য করিতেছেন না। গভর্ণমেণ্ট, জমীদার প্রত্যেকেই তাদের সম্বন্ধে উদাসীন। যদি পৃথিবীর দুষ্প্রাপ্য সম্পদ উৎপাদনকারী পাটচাষীর উন্নতি করারই জন্য কোন পন্থা অবিলম্বে অবলম্বন করা না হয়, তাহা হইলে শীঘ্রই এই চাষী সমাজ ধ্বংস হইয়া যাইবে। কাজেই আমি মাননীয় সদস্যগণকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি যে আপনারা আমার ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিয়া পাটচাষীদের ধ্বংসের মুখ হইতে রক্ষা করুন।

Mr. Shah SYED GHOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট দেশের প্রজা-সাধারণের উপরে নানাভাবে ট্যাক্স চাপাতে আরম্ভ করেছেন। Extraordinary Budgetএর ৬৫,৭৩,৩৪,০০০ টাকা প্রকারান্তরে বলা যায় অপব্যয় করেছেন--

Mr. SPEAKER : সেকথা এখানে ওঠে না, সে হয়ে গেছে।

Mr. Shah SYED GHOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : স্যার! গভর্ণমেণ্ট ট্যাক্স করে সেই টাকায় যদি বন্দোবস্ত না করেন তাহলে কি কোরে চলবে? দেশের কৃষকের অবস্থা মোটেই ভাল নয়। আগে কৃষিকার্য্য অল্প খরচেই করতে পারত কিন্তু এখন খুব বেশী খরচ হয়। আগে এক বৎসরের জন্য একটা মজুর ৫৲-৮৲ টাকার মধ্যে পাওয়া যেত, এখন ২০০৲-৪০০৲ টাকা দিয়েও একটা মজুর পাওয়া যায় না। মিলিটারীর জন্য এবং অন্যান্য কারণে মজুরের খুব অভাব। তার উপর বীজের অভাব, সারের দামও বেড়ে গেছে। এইভাবে কৃষকগণ বহু খরচ কোরেও কূল পায় না। গরু পাওয়া যায় না। কাজেই পূর্ব্বের অবস্থা এখন আর নাই। কাজেই গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাদের উপরে যেসব ট্যাক্স কোরে রেখেছেন তা নেহাত অন্যায়। এটাকে বাংলার প্রজা-সাধারণের প্রতিনিধিদের বিশ্বাসঘাতকতা ব্যতীত আর কিছুই বলতে পারি না। এই যে সেল-ট্যাক্স করেছেন—প্রথমে লুঙ্গি, গামছা ইত্যাদি বাদ দিয়েছিলেন; কিন্তু ২ মাস হ'ল তাঁতের কাপড়ের উপরে, লুঙ্গির ও গামছার উপরেও সেল-ট্যাক্স বসান হয়েছে। কোরআন শরীফ এবং অন্যান্য ধর্ম্মগ্রন্থের উপরে সেল-ট্যাক্স আদায় করা হয়ে থাকে। মুর্দ্দার কাফনের উপরেও sale-tax আদায় করে থাকে। এর ফলে যাদের ধর্ম্মগ্রন্থ পড়বার আকাঙ্ক্ষা থাকে তাদের পক্ষে অর্থের অভাবে সে আকাঙ্ক্ষা মেটান অসম্ভব হয়ে পড়ে।

আর একটা কথা হচ্ছে স্যার। মুসলমানের মুর্দার কাপড় অতি আবশ্যকীয় জিনিষ। সেই মুর্দার কাপড় উপরও ট্যাক্স আদায় করা হয়ে থাকে। স্যার। অত্যন্ত আক্ষেপের সঙ্গে আমি এই পরিষদে ঘোষণা করছি: বিশেষ কোরে অনারেবল সাপ্লাই মিনিষ্টার শহীদ সুহ্‌রাওয়ার্দী সাহেবকে ও অনারেবল লেবার ও কমার্স মিনি সাহাবুদ্দিন সাহেবকে জানাচ্ছি যে নোয়াখালি জেলার সোনাইমুড়ি বাজারের নিকট একটি মুসলমানের মুর্দাকে কাপড় অভাবে কলাপাতা দিয়ে ঢেকে মাটি দেওয়া হয়েছে। এতে বোঝা যায় লীগের নামে ধোকা দিয়ে তারা বাংল নরনারীর রক্ত ও অর্থ শোষণ করছেন—দেশকে বস্ত্রহীন করেছেন। আজ পূর্ব্ব পাকিস্থানের মুসলমান প্রধান জেল একটি মুসলমান সন্তানকে বিনা কাপড়ে কলাপাতা জড়িত হয়ে আল্লার কাছে কবরে যেতে হয়েছে। এখনও ও ট্রেজারি বেঞ্চে বসে লীগের অনুগতরূপে লীগের দোহাই দিচ্ছেন। মোসলেম লীগ ভারতের ১০ কোটি মুসলমানে প্রতিনিধি স্থানীয় জাতীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান মধ্যে একটি। শিয়া ও চোরাবাজারীর দল স্বার্থপরতার দ্বারা লীগকে নষ্ট ক ছেন, নাপাক করেছেন। মাননীয় স্পীকার সাহেব। আজ অন্যায়ভাবে বাংলা দেশের উপরে নানা রকম ট্যা করার ফলে প্রজা-সাধারণ মুমূর্ষু অবস্থায় পড়েছে। একথা দেশ বোঝে। স্যার। আমি ট্রেজারি বেঞ্চকে জিজ্ঞা করি তোমরা মোসলেম লীগের নামে, দশ কোটি মুসলমানের জাতীয় প্রতিষ্ঠানের দোহাই দিয়ে বাংলার ৩৬ ল লোককে খেতে না দিয়ে মেরেছ (cries of shame, shame)। তোমরা বাংলার ৬ কোটি নরনারীকে বস্ত্রহী করেছ; তার বিনিময়ে তোমরা আজ কোটিপতি—millionaire। তোমাদের কার্য্যের ফলে আজ বাংলার ৬ কো মানব ধ্বংসের করালগ্রাসে পতিত হ'তে বসেছে। স্যার! আপনার যোগে আমি মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে বলি যে আ তোমাদের শোষণ ও তোমাদের স্বার্থপরতায় কি হচ্ছে দেখ। আজ আবার তোমরা কাপড় নিয়ে খেলা আর করেছ। তার ফলে বাংলার পল্লীতে-পল্লীতে বস্ত্র-সঙ্কট, আর কলিকাতা শহরের সঙ্কট ত দেখ্‌ছেনই। বাংলার সুশিক্ষিত সন্তানগণ! হে বাংলার প্রতিনিধিগণ! আজ তোমরা এই মোসলেম লীগ মিনিষ্ট্রীকে suppor দিচ্ছ; তাই তোমাদের কাছে স্পীকার সাহেবের যোগে নিবেদন করছি। আজ কলিকাতা শহরের গলি, রাস্তা ফুটপাথের অবস্থা দেখে পল্লীর অবস্থা কল্পনা কর। আজ কাপড়ের অভাবে মা, বোন, পিতা, ভ্রাতা, আত্মীয়স্বজন গণ উলঙ্গ হয়ে আত্মহত্যা করছে, অনন্যোপায় হয়ে রাস্তায় বাহির হয়েছে। এখনও কি তোমাদের কোন কর্ত্তব্য নাই? নিশ্চয়ই আছে। যারা এজন্য দায়ী তাদের Treasury Bench থেকে ঘাড় ধরে বার কোরে দেওয়া এবং বাংলার জনসাধারণের জন্য কাপড়ের ব্যবস্থা করা তোমাদের কর্ত্তব্য। (Red light was shown here.)

Mr. SPEAKER : আর আপনার সময় নাই।

Mr. Shah SYED GHOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : স্যার! আমাকে ২ মিনিট সময় দিন। ট্যাক্স সম্বন্ধে বলি--

Mr. SPEAKER : আপনি ট্যাক্স সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলতে চান ত সময় দিই। অন্য কিছু সম্বন্ধে বলবেন না।

Mr. Shah SYED GHOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, ট্যাক্স সম্বন্ধে বলতে গেলে দেশের অবস্থা পরিষদে উপস্থিত করা দরকার। ট্যাক্স কোরে কোরে বাংলার জনশক্তিকে, বাংলার কোটি কোটি লোককে কি অবস্থায় উপনীত করেছে সে কথা যদি কোন প্রকারে পরিষদে বলবার অধিকার না পাই তবে পরিষদের সভ্য হিসাবে এবং জনগণের প্রতিনিধি হিসাবে আমাদের অধিকার ক্ষুণ্ণ করা হবে এবং জনগণের অধিকারও ক্ষুণ্ণ হবে। স্যার। এই যে কৃষক-প্রজার উপরে কৃষি-আয়কর, সেল-ট্যাক্স ইত্যাদি বহু রকম ট্যাক্স বসাইয়া তাদের নিপীড়িত করা হচ্ছে তাতে তাদের এবং মধ্যবিত্ত সম্প্রদায়ের কোন উপকার হচ্ছে না। যদি প্রজা-সাধারণের দেয় ট্যাক্সের দ্বারা দেশের উপকার না হয় সেই ট্যাক্স বসানর কোন সার্থকতা নাই। এতে কেবল Treasury Benchএর ভুঁড়ি পূরণ ছাড়া আর কিছুই হয় না।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : স্পীকার মহোদয়! আমার বন্ধু মকবুল হোসেন সাহেব পাটের টেকোর টাকাটা পাটচাষীর মঙ্গলার্থে খরচ করার দাবী করিয়া যে ঠাটাই প্রস্তাব আনিয়াছেন সেই প্রস্তাব আমি সমর্থন করিয়া কিছু বলিতে চাই।

বাংলার চাষীরা পাট উৎপন্ন করিয়া থাকে। তাদের উৎপাদিত পাটের উপর যে ট্যাক্স ধার্য্য করা হয়, সেই ট্যাক্সটা তাদের প্রাপ্য ন্যায্য মূল্য থেকে বাদ যায়। কাজেই তাদের মূল্যের যে অংশ ট্যাক্সরূপে কাটিয়া রাখা হয়, সেই ট্যাক্সএর টাকাটা একমাত্র পাটচাষীর মঙ্গলার্থে ব্যয় করা গভর্ণমেণ্টের ন্যায়তঃ, ধর্ম্মতঃ কর্ত্তব্য। সেইজন্য আমি বলতে চাই--আজ বাংলার পাটচাষীর যে দুরবস্থা তা বর্ণনা করা যায় না। তাদের চাষের গরু নেই, কামলা মজুরের মাইনে দেবার শক্তি, সামর্থ নাই। তাদের যাবতীয় শক্তি ক্ষয় হইয়া গিয়াছে, এবং বাংলার জমী পতিত থাকিবার অবস্থায় দাঁড়িয়েছে। সেইজন্য বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রধান কর্ত্তব্য হবে এই যে, পাটের টেক্স, সেই টাকাটার পাটচাষীরা যাতে চাষের সুবিধা করতে পারে, হাল, গরু কিনতে পারে, হালের সাজ-সরঞ্জাম সস্তাদরে পেতে পারে, তাদের কামলা মজুর রীতিমত সংগ্রহ করতে পারে তার ব্যবস্থা করা। এবং রীতিমত-ভাবে জমিটাকে চাষ করে আবার যাতে পাট উৎপন্ন করতে পারে সেইজন্য সেটা খরচ করা বাংলার পাটচাষীর

ন্যায্য দাবী। বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি সুসভ্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট বলে দাবী করেন তাহলে তাঁদের সভ্যতার প্রথম পরিচয় হবে এই পাটচাষীদের যে রক্ত-নিংড়ান টাকা সেটা পাটচাষীদের মঙ্গলার্থে যদি তাঁরা ব্যয় করেন। কয়েকটা সাদা-চামড়া পাটের ব্যাপারী সাহেবের ভোটের আশায় বাংলার পাটচাষীর সর্বনাশ না করেন।

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Mr. Speaker, my demand of Rs. 7,82,000 is almost entirely for collection charges for the taxes, namely, on luxury, entertainment, betting, electricity duty, sales tax, Bengal Finance Act, Bengal Motor Vehicles Sales Act, Bengal Raw Jute Tax and the like yielding approximately an annual income of Rs. 4,20,00,000. Therefore this demand is only for meeting the collection charges. So, Sir, I do not propose to enter into detailed replies to all the observations made by the speakers.

Sir, the observations made by Dr. Sanyal were directly meant for the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Finance So, I do not propose to give any reply to those observations at the present moment.

As regards the charges against Government, I may say, Sir, that Government have not overlooked the due claim of the poorer people. I would only say that provision has been made in the Sales Tax Rules for exempting the poor man's cloth—*dhotis*, *saris*, *lungis* and the like, and by a special notification issued last year these things have been made still more clear.

As regards the proposal to earmarking certain taxes for specific purposes in the nation-building departments, I would only submit that at the present time we have got to pool all the taxes for the more important works like relief work, etc., and thus at the present moment Government is spending much more for nation-building purposes than what the taxes yield.

As regards the fiery utterances of Mr. Golam Sarwar Hosaini, in his fighting speech I think there is hardly anything which requires any reply. He has only satisfied his pleasure by making various vague charges which, I submit, do not deserve any reply

With these observations, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions.

(When Mr Speaker was putting Dr Nalinaksha Sanyal's motion No. 171 to vote.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has not replied to the points raised by me

Mr. SPEAKER: If he does not like to reply, what can I do?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, I have already stated that the Finance Minister has taken note of his observations.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am now putting the motion to vote.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Whose motion is it, Sir? May we know the name?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is Dr. Sanyal's motion.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 7,82,000 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the inequities, anomalies and burdens of the Sales Tax, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Maqbul Hossain that the demand of Rs. 7,82,000 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to earmark the proceeds of the Raw Jute Sales Tax for the improvement of the jute growers, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea that a sum of Rs. 7,82,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-30 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 14th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 14th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 183 members.

Further supplementaries to Starred Question No. *187.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for less number of Scheduled Caste candidates being appointed?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: As regards the posts of Superintendents and District Fishery Officers the Public Service Commission made the selection and they reported that no more suitable candidates could be found for these posts from the Scheduled Castes. As regards the posts of Field Assistants, I may say that only one was selected up to the 30th of October and since then 5 more have been appointed. We have definitely instructed the departmental head that 6 more Scheduled Castes must be appointed in order that their quota may come up to 30 per cent. of the Hindu quota.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the procedure adopted by Government for the appointment of these officers?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The Public Service Commission advertises the appointments and makes the selections from among qualified candidates after interviewing them. As regards the posts of Field Assistants the Head of the Department has got a panel of 3 or 4 persons to make the selection from among the qualified candidates.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give the number of candidates who applied for these respective posts?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: As regards the posts filled up by the Public Service Commission they have refused to supply the informations asked for, for answering supplementary questions but as regards the posts of Field Assistants the figures are available. There were 263 Muslims and 35 Scheduled Caste qualified candidates.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what are the duties of the fisherman attendants?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: They go with the District Officers and Field Assistants to help them in liberating fish and helping in the matter of catching fish, and finding out fishes whether they are growing properly and manuring tanks and doing other things.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In view of the duties mentioned just now, do the Government think it desirable to appoint only fishermen to these posts?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, certainly it will be considered.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider why the Communal Ratio Rules were not observed in filling up higher posts in respect of Muslims, namely, the posts of Superintendents and District Fishery Officers?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Qualified Muslim candidates were not found according to the Public Service Commission's report, but there are still 6 posts in the rank of District Fishery Officers and with the permission of the Public Service Commission we are going to take in 6 Muslim B. Sc. graduates and give them special training in Zoology. Muslim graduates with Zoology are not available That is why we are arranging special training for them for six months in Zoology. After that they will be appointed to the posts of District Fishery Officers.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the appointing authority in respect of fisherman attendants and clerks?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The Director of Fisheries

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: In view of the reply given just now by the Hon'ble Minister that fishermen are the fit persons to be appointed as attendants, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what consideration Caste Hindus and Muslims are appointed to these posts?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Because it is a work which could be done by any body but fishermen of course ought to be preferred I think.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the officers appointed have any special knowledge or training in fishery.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: They have special basic training For example, they have training in Zoology and some of the higher officers have special training in Technology of Fishery.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Shall I be in the wrong if I say that most of them are Science graduates of the University?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: As I have already stated most of them are Science graduates with Zoology, some with honours course and some M. A's in Zoology. Only a few, 2 or 3, have special knowledge.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any dearth of Muslim M. Sc.s and Muslim B.Sc.s for these posts?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Muslim graduates in Zoology (Honours course) or Muslim M.Sc.s in Zoology are not found at all.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why a gentleman from Lucknow has been taken in to fill up the posts of District Fishery Officer?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Every attempt is being made to fill up the Muslim quota and with that end in view we have to bring Muslim from other provinces also.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: In view of the answer just now given that Field Assistants, clerks and fisherman attendants are appointed by the Director of Fisheries, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the communal ratio rules were not observed in these cases?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The figures given are only up to the 31st October. This Department has been newly organised and more appointments will be made when due adjustments will be made.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what are the duties of Field Assistants?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: They are the people really who will rear fishes in tanks, estuaries and also big *beels* in the Sunderbans area. They do manuring of tanks, etc., and they also watch the growth of fishes.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In view of the duties which the Field Assistants perform, do the Government consider it desirable to appoint fishermen to these posts instead of Caste Hindus at least?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Some knowledge of Zoology is necessary for these posts. That is what the Department is insisting on. But for Field Assistants' posts fishermen with basic knowledge of I. Sc and even I.A. are being preferred.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Muhammadan candidates who have been selected for special training at the Calcutta University for prospective appointments belong to the fishermen community?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: No, the Muslim candidates do not belong to the fishermen community. They are selected for filling up the Muslim quota.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there are many Mahomedans who also follow the profession of fishermen?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: There are no Mahomedan fishermen.

Mr. SPEAKER: He means *Nikaris*, I think?

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: But the basic qualification for the post of Field Assistant is I.Sc. or I.A. and for the post of District Fishery Officer B.Sc. with Zoology.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why they are not selected from the Nikari community who can fulfil the minimum requisite qualification of passing the Matriculation or I.A.?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I have said that Nikaris and fishermen have been preferred. I know two graduates—one B.Sc. and one B.A.—have been taken as Field Assistants and are receiving training so that they may get promotion to the post of District

Fishery Officer. All fishermen and Nikaris—whether Hindu or Muslim—will be preferred, but we want that they must have the minimum basic qualification.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government considers the desirability of giving training to the Scheduled Caste people to fill up the Scheduled Castes' quota as has been done in the case of Muslims?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Certainly, because I find that in three of the posts Caste Hnidus did not join yet, and I have definitely instructed that three Scheduled Castes should be selected for special training. If those vacancies have been filled up at least one post out of the 6 unfilled posts will go to the Scheduled Castes.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Scheduled Caste has yet been selected for the purpose of training?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Not yet. No selection has yet been made even for the Muslim candidates.

Khan Bahadur JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Will all the six candidates deputed to the University be appointed straight by the Government or they will be referred to the Public Services Commission?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The Public Services Commission has agreed that these candidates will not be referred to the Public Services Commission because they have been recruited for being appointed first as Field Assistants and after that they will be given a training for six months and then promoted, and in case of promotion the Public Services Commission will not have to be referred to.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

The number of deaths in the subdivisions of Bakarganj district.

***188. Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing for the last ten months up to 31st December, 1943,—

(*i*) the number of persons that have died of (1) starvation, (2) cholera and (3) fever, in—

(*a*) Bhola,

(*b*) Pirojpur,

(*c*) Patuakhali, and

(*d*) Sadar

subdivision of the Bakarganj district; and

(*ii*) the number of them belonging to (1) Caste Hindus, (2) Scheduled Castes and (3) Muslims, in each subdivision?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*i*) A statement showing deaths from cholera, smallpox, malaria and other causes and total deaths in each subdivision of Bakarganj district during the months of March to December, 1943, is laid on the Library Table.

Deaths from starvation only are not available as they have not been separately recorded. The column "Other causes" in the statement includes "fevers" and cases of deaths due to "starvation". Reference is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 365.

(*ii*) It is not possible to furnish the figures as they are not readily available and the labour involved in compiling them would be incommensurate with the benefit likely to accrue therefrom.

Number of deaths, district by district, in the Province from starvation since 24th April, 1943.

*189. **Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state, district by district, the number of deaths that have occurred due to starvation owing to scarcity of supply of food in the Province since 24th April, last?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): The honourable member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 365 on the subject.

Vital statistics of the Goalundo subdivision.

*190. **Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(1) how many deaths took place in the district of Faridpur from all causes in each of the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and for period from January, 1944, up to date;

(2) how many of them were in the subdivision of Goalundo in each of the above years;

(3) how many of the same are due to—

(*a*) malaria,

(*b*) cholera,

(*c*) smallpox,

(*d*) other diseases and causes, and

(4) what were the total number of births in the said subdivision in the corresponding periods?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (1) District Faridpur:—

Year	Deaths from all causes.
1941	70,404
1942	80,174
1943	100,122
1944 (up to November)	71,665

(2) Goalundo subdivision (Faridpur)—

Year.	Deaths from all causes.
1941	11,033
1942	9,138
1943	9,101
1944 (up to November)	7,433

(3) A statement is laid on the Table.

(4) Goalundo subdivision (Faridpur)—

Year.	Total number of births in the said subdivision.
1941	7,053
1942	6,683
1943	6,694
1944 (up to November)	3,520

Statement referred to in reply to clause (3) of starred question No.190.

	1941.		1942.		1943.		1944 (up to November).	
	Faridpur. district.	Goalundo subdivision.	Faridpur district.	Goalundo subdivision.	Faridpur district.	Goalundo subdivision.	Faridpur district.	Goalundo subdivision.
(a) Malaria ..	29,446	8,794	36,781	6,961	50,432	5,628	42,561	5,833
(b) Cholera ..	5,483	155	8,221	603	7,783	1,440	1,658	110
(c) Smallpox ..	370	94	100	2	586	62	7,166	259
(d) Other diseases and causes.	35,105	1,990	35,072	1,572	41,321	1,971	20,260	1,231

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With reference to items (2) and (4) regarding the Goalundo subdivision the birth and death rates indicate that there is a decay of the population to that within a short time the subdivision will be depopulated. In view of that will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to combat this?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Government is taking every possible step to prevent that.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Post-War Reconstruction Committee of Bengal.

57. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the personnel of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee of Bengal;

(*b*) what are its various Sub-Committees;

(*c*) who are the members of the Central Post-War Reconstruction Committee from Bengal;

(*d*) how many meetings, if any, were held of the Bengal Post-War Reconstruction Committee; and

(*e*) what the Committee proposes to do, in brief, in Bengal?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin): (*a*) A statement showing the personnel is laid on the Library Table.

(*b*) There are nine Sub-Committees dealing with Agricultural Policy, Education, Industrial Development, Public Health, Co-operative Movement, Transport, Electricity, Employment, and Labour and Social Security respectively.

(*c*) At the Centre, there is a General Policy Committee and a number of other Policy Committees dealing with specific subjects. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Post-War Reconstruction is the official representative of Bengal on the General Policy Committee. In the Policy Committees dealing with specific subjects, Hon'ble Ministers in charge of Departments concerned are members.

(*d*) Four.

(*e*) The Bengal Post-War Reconstruction Committee is an advisory body constituted to advise Government generally on post-war reconstruction problems in Bengal and to assist in the formulation of schemes likely to advance all-round development of the Province. It has already made some valuable recommendations to Government.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Construction of embankments on southern part of Khulna.

***191. Mr. PATIRAM ROY:** (*a*) With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 30 of the 23rd September, 1943, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether the proposed enquiry has been made and the report thereof has also been submitted to the Government?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table copy of the report of the enquiry and the decision of the Government, if any, thereon?

(c) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the embankments and bunds are indispensable to protect the paddy lands in the southern portion of Bengal against the saline water?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of expediting the construction and repairing of the embankments?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain): (a) The officers of the Irrigation Department have enquired into the proposals submitted by the Subdivisional Embankment Committees.

(b) to (d) The reports of the local officers are under examination by the Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department. The matter will be considered by Government and a decision arrived at when the technical advice of the Chief Engineer is received.

Postponement of Union Board elections in Tangail subdivision, Mymensingh.

*192. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(a) the Union Board elections that have been reversed or postponed in the subdivision of Tangail, district Mymensingh;

(b) the authority that has set aside or postponed the elections;

(c) the grounds for setting aside or postponing the elections;

(d) the costs involved in setting aside or postponing each such election; and

(e) the source from which such costs will be met?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (a) and (b) Dighar; set aside by Additional District Magistrate. Elenga and Salla, set aside by Divisional Commissioner.

(c) There were material irregularities in the conduct of the elections.

(d) Rs.227.

(e) Mainly by Union Board: a small part also by Government.

Mr. CHARU CHANRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House who is mainly responsible for these material irregularities and what were those irregularities?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: What were those irregularities?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: They were in the conduct of the elections.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Who conducted those elections?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The Circle Officer.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: In view of the answer that the Circle Officer was responsible for the postponement of the elections which were badly conducted by him involving a cost of Rs. 227, will he not be responsible for this sum?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: My friend takes it for granted that the Circle Officer badly conducted the elections, but I have not said that. Therefore, I submit that question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From the answer just now given by the Hon'ble Minister that he wants notice about the question of irregularities, do

I understand him to say that the District Official who informed the Government that there were irregularities did not say what those irregularities were?

Mr. SPEAKER: From the answer you cannot assume these things. He asks for notice only. I think the question does not arise.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: May I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the printed question regarding the grounds for setting aside or postponing the elections by which notice has already been given.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made yourself abundantly clear but he has asked for notice; what can be done?

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, the union boards are not responsible for setting aside those elections and I ask why should the union boards be made to bear this cost for setting aside these elections.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The irregularities may occur in various ways; it may be due to the fault of voters or of presiding officers. As for persons who are responsible I have asked for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of placing on the Library table a copy of the letter written by the District Officer informing Government about these irregularities?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The District Officer has already written that there were material irregularities and so the elections were set aside or postponed. There is nothing further than that.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, my submission is that I want the grounds for postponement of most of the elections. This question be held over and answered by the Hon'ble Minister during this session.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that is necessary.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, my submission, on a point of privilege——

Mr. SPEAKER: I have quite understood you. He said that there were material irregularities. If you like, you can put supplementaries and if he is willing, he can give answers.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: The Parliamentary Secretary said that there might be irregularities from voters. Will he please state what kind of irregularity can a voter inflict upon the election?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is hypothetical.

Holding of meetings in Chittagong.

*183. **Mrs. NELLIE SEN GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether seven days' notice is still required by the Magistrate of Chittagong when any meeting is to be held in that district;

(*ii*) whether the present Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department made a statement in October, 1944, that no permission for any meeting or procession would be required anywhere in Bengal excepting the cities of Calcutta, Midnapore and Dacca; and

(*iii*) whether there is any publication of a Government communique to the same effect?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Subdivisional Officer, Asansol, is disregarding this Government communique?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. The question is about holding of meetings in Chittagong.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: The answer admits that excepting Calcutta, Dacca and Midnapore, all over Bengal one can hold meetings, but the Subdivisional Officer of Asansol is disregarding this Government communique and not allowing any meeting to be held in Asansol area. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact and whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It has not been brought to the notice of the Government.

Inconvenience of Haj Pilgrims of Bengal.

*194. **Mr. CIASUDDIN AHMED:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) if his attention has been drawn to the serious inconvience caused to Haj Pilgrims from Bengal at the Port of Karachi this year;

(*b*) whether he intends to ask the Government of India to institute an enquiry into the conduct of the Special Officer for Haj pilgrimage in that Port;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the said Special Officer is being proposed for the post of Indian Vice-Consul in Jeddah;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the majority of Indian Haj pilgrims come from Bengal; and

(*e*) if so, whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of requesting the Government of India to reserve the posts of Indian Vice-Consul at Jeddah and the Special Officer at Karachi for Bengali Muslims?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): All these questions relate to matters which are primarily the concern of Government of India. The Hon'ble Home Minister has unofficially learnt that Mr. Shah Jehan Kabir, a Bengali Muslim, has been appointed Indian Vice-Consul at Jeddha.

Statement by the Hon'ble Home Minister about assault on security prisoners.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, the Hon'ble Home Minister wanted to make a statement or answer a short-notice question in regard to an adjournment motion that I tabled day before yesterday about the assault on security prisoners.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: A report was called for from the Superintendent of the jail and a report was received in the Secretariat, but that does not cover all the grounds necessary to draft a reply. So, another report has been asked for from the Superintendent. It has, I believe, just been received in the Secretariat and we were expecting the file to reach the Assembly any moment, but unfortunately, I believe, the file has not yet reached the Assembly. The Chief Minister is still expecting the file. So, the question may be answered tomorrow.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: *After the Jails budget is over?*

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If the file is received some time afterwards and if the Hon'ble Speaker allows, he can answer the question today.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

27—Administration of Justice.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 94,60,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice".

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, we have saved some time. I hope you will give me a little more time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you will get some more time.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 94,60,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy behind the appointment and maintenance of Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors.

Sir, you were a lawyer and many in this House are lawyers and till some time back beginners entering into the profession heard of the old type Public Prosecutors who had the courage of conviction and who could stand up before any court and say that the Crown had no case. That old type of Public Prosecutors has been fast disappearing and the fundamental principle of criminal jurisprudence that no conviction can be secured by hook or by crook —just the reverse of that—rules the field today that wenever there is a Crown prosecution, particularly in a political type of case, there must be conviction obtained by hook or by crook. The reason is obvious. In the previous days the District Judge had a supreme voice in the selection of Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders, and you know, Sir, that even in the midst of slavery in all administrations it is just a little relief that Judges try to get out of the clutches of the administrative influences as far as possible and therefore when District and Sessions Judges made their choice of Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders they were actuated by the desire to get hold of the best lawyer coupled with the most upright character. But things have changed. Recently, Sir, although not very recently but some time back a rule has been introduced that a Public Prosecutor shall hold office for three years at a time and that he should vacate if he is 60 years in the mean time. So far as age-limit is concerned, of course, there is no objection but this three years rule has introduced a new type of jealousy in the character and conduct of Public Prosecutors. They consider themselves to be on probation for good conduct for these three years and as the selections are now done by the Magistrates and by the police these people try to serve their probationary period of three years in such a way as to be obliging, helpful and convenient for the government of the day. The result has been that not only selection is not made of the best and the most upright amongst lawyers but selections are made from among those who are obliging and convenient even if they are not up to the mark, and you will be surprised to know, Sir, that in some cases even the District Judges have not been consulted. Without disclosing the district or the man I will give you one instance. A gentleman who happened to be a criminal practitioner exclusively in the criminal court—previously he was a Mukteer, then he passed the Committee Examination known as P. L., he never crossed the threshold of the Judges Court, never appeared either for the prosecution or for the defence, never appeared in a criminal motion or appeal—was selected by the District Magistrate to be an Additional Public Prosecutor. The matter was referred to the then District Judge. The

District Judge said that as this pleader never appeared before him he was not in a position to give any opinion about him. He was selected as an Additional Public Prosecutor in spite of the fact that he never appeared before any District and Sessions Judge either in a civil or a criminal case. He was appointed because he was able to satisfy the District Magistrate that he was very comfortable and then he complied with the additional requirement that he was then the Secretary of the Muslim League of the district. (Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it your own district?) If anybody says that it is my district I shall say, "I will not disclose this information in public interest". I do not grudge the appointment of this gentleman. Let him remain there. Will you be further surprised, Sir, to know that having been installed in the *gadi* of Public Prosecutor, although he holds half the district within his jurisdiction, he has not appeared before the Sessions Judge even after that in connection with any sessions case arising within his jurisdiction in the district, and whenever there is any difficulty on points of law or otherwise the brief is transferred to somebody else.

Now, to what have these things led? There has been what is ordinarily known as nepotism and there is also some sort of corruption. In that district also—I shall not mention the name—the Government Pleader, who is also Public Prosecutor for half the district, is one who does not appear in any civil case excepting those in which Government is interested. This is the type of civil lawyer who is a Government Pleader. This has now become a special problem throughout Bengal because this three years rule has introduced a new engine of nepotism. These people from morning till night instead of looking into the law books, instead of devoting to the brief, have to carry on out-door practice. In the morning they have to visit the District Magistrate, go to the Subdivisional Officer, then to the Superintendent of Police, then to the Inspector of Police and then sometimes they have to go to the Minister to get certain private advice so that they may be able to say to the District Magistrate that they are coming from the Minister with a message. That consolidates their position This new type of political hobnobbing is the mainstay of the existence of the Public Prosecutors.

Now, Sir, all over Bengal this three years rule is operating in a peculiar way You know, Sir, that in many districts people who have crossed the age-limit of 60 are not discharged from this onerous occupation. Because the selection of the successor is a problem. There are many aspirants—one is a Vice-President of the Muslim League and another is Secretary of the Muslim League. Whom to choose? And if the District Judge is consulted, he may give opinion in favour of one who is not a politician in the labelled and acknowledged sense. Therefore, although three years have expired, the successor is not selected I will suggest to the Hon'ble Minister to do one thing at least. He ought to make it a point of principle that the selection must be made exclusively on the recommendation of the District Judge. If the executive is a party to an important case, if the Crown is a party, you know, Sir, that in political cases—I am not exaggerating—only to oblige the Superintendent of Police, the Public Prosecutor in a District is known to have not only tutored evidence but cooked and manufactured evidence, and upon my personal authority I say that in some cases in order to oblige the over-zealous Superintendent of Police, the Public Prosecutor has gone into the witness box in order to prove the case for the Police. The Public Prosecutors draw their emoluments from the public exchequer. They are supposed to be ministers and officers of Justice, but they are practically tipped up by the Political Department and the Police to do anything and everything. Sir, this is not consistent with the dignity of the office which they hold.

Sir, you will also find that these Public Prosecutors play a very interesting part in the war market when the Defence of India Act is operating. Against big dealers prosecution is intended or contemplated. Just as the Police pounce upon them to grab something from them, similarly the

Public Prosecutors also make themselves available for private intercourse. Then if he succeeds in obliging a big dealer, the Public Prosecutor goes to the District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police and says that he is a very loyal merchant. Well, Government require many houses. Here is a dealer who has got two or three extra houses. You may requisition and he will not object to that. If the dealer has not got a second house to be placed at the disposal of Government, he will be handy for a substantial contribution either for the naked war fund or the masqueraded Red Cross Fund. Then the prosecution will be withdrawn. So the Public Prosecutor makes his piles. He gets invisible court-fee. He cannot disclose that to the Magistrate, but he prepares a case which the Magistrate has to swallow all at once. And then he persecutes, and not prosecutes I shall say, those dealers who fail to purchase the grace of the Public Prosecutor.

Sir, we have got a very soft corner for the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, because he is a noble man of Bengal and I assure him that I have got instances not only in my memory, but I have got instances in my pocket, and if he would condescend to accept any information from the Opposition for his guidance and action, I will illustrate all my points, not only one or two instances, but I will illustrate all my points by at least half a dozen instances. I will make an appeal to him that he should make it a point to adopt the principle that the Public Prosecutors should be appointed solely on the recommendation of the District Judge, and the District Magistrate or the Superintendent of Police should not have anything to do with it. (A VOICE: Sons-in-law may be appointed.) I do not mind sons-in-law or brothers-in-law. If they are otherwise qualified, let them come in. Let them not come in simply as ins-law. A Public Prosecutor is supposed to be a quasi law officer.

There is another matter. The three years rule must be rigidly enforced. Let everybody feel that these three years' time is his limit and that he need not go out of his way to please the Executive, because he will not get any extension after these three years. If he comes back he will come back by rotation. Once the lawyers are impressed that as a matter of course there will be no extension after three years, they will cease to be overzealous, they will cease to be unscrupulous, and they will consider that these three years period should be spent as a dignified lawyer and for service to the cause of the State and not merely for his own cause.

So, Sir, I make my submissions and suggestions to the noble lord of the Treasury Benches, so that he will take up the matter in the right lordly fashion (Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: He is a man above suspicion). My friend says at least here is a man who has created an impression of being above suspicion probably because of his incapacity to handle the funds of others. Anyway, let him rise up to the lordliness of height and speak out; even if he cannot do anything, he can give assurances, that is all.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 94,60,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about making unnecessary delay in disposing cases arising out of August, 1942, disturbances.

মি: স্পীকার, স্যার, বিগত ১৯৪২ সালে বাংলা দেশে, বিশেষ করে মেদিনীপুর অঞ্চলে, খুব গোলমাল হয়েছিল। সাবুত্রিক বন্যা, দুর্ভিক্ষ প্রভৃতিতে লোকের দুর্গতির সীমা ছিল না। এই সময় বহু লোককে ধরে জেলখানায় পোরা হয়েছিল। কেন যে তাদের ধরা পড়েছিল এবং কেন যে তাদের বহুদিন ধরে আটকে রাখা হয়েছিল, সে সম্বন্ধে একটা ছোট দৃষ্টান্ত ইতিহাস আছে। যাঁরা প্রজাসাধারণের প্রতিনিধি হয়ে এখানে এসেছেন এবং তাঁদের প্রতিনিধিত্বে যাঁরা মন্ত্রিত্ব করছেন, তাঁদের এটা জানা উচিৎ বলেই আমি আমার motionটা move করছি।

আমি নিজের দেখার কথা বলছি, শোনা কথা বলছি না। এক একদিন সন্ধ্যা রাত্রে প্রায় দেড়শো, দুশো, তিনশো লোককে ধরে আনা হয়--তাদের চুরি, ডাকাতী, নানা কারণে ধরে নিয়ে এসে জেলে আটকে রাখা হয়।

মাঝে মাঝে তাদের বিচারালয়ে নিয়ে যাওয়া হয়, বিচারের জন্য। শতাধিক লোককে একসঙ্গে নিয়ে যাওয়া হয়। যেমন মেষপালক একদল ভেড়াকে নিয়ে যায়, সেই রকমভাবে কনেষ্টবল এদের সঙ্গে করে নিয়ে যায়। সেখানে হাজতখানা একটা ছোট ঘর, তার ভিতর বেলা ১০টা থেকে সন্ধ্যা ৬টা পর্যন্ত আটক রাখা হয়। তাদের বিচারের জন্য হাকিমের কাছে হাজির করা হয় না, তাদের পেচ্ছাপ পর্যন্ত করতে যেতে দেওয়া হয় না, একটু জল পর্যন্ত খেতে দেওয়া হয় না। মাঝে মাঝে তাদের কোর্টে নিয়ে যাওয়া হয়, কিন্তু কোন দিন তাদের হাকিমের সামনে উপস্থিত করা হয় না। এবং এতগুলি আসামীকে নিয়ে যে caseটা হাকিমের file এ রয়েছে সেই caseটার final report কেন যে পুলিশ দিচ্ছে না এই কথাটা কেন যে হাকিম জিজ্ঞাসা করেন না, সেটা লক্ষ্য করবার বিষয়। যিনি বিচারাসনে বসে আছেন, তিনি সত্য ন্যায়ভাবে বিচার করবেন এইটাই আমরা আশা করি। তারপর আমরা দেখেছি--public prosecutor এসে বললেন "The case is not ready" তাইতে হাকিম সন্তুষ্ট হয়ে গেলেন, এবং আসামীকে পুনরায় হাজতে আটক রাখা হ'ল। এই রকম ঘটনা এক-আধবার নয় বহুবার ঘটেছে। মাসের পর মাস ধরে বহুলোককে একবার তাদের হাকিমের কাছে উপস্থিত করে, আবার তাদের জেলখানায় আটক রাখা হয়েছে, অথচ হাকিম থেকে কোন steps নেওয়া হয়নি।

তাদের পরবার জন্য একখানা মাত্র কাপড় দেওয়া হয়। এবং কাপড় কাচবার জন্য এক টুকরা সাবান দেওয়া হয় না। তাদের গায়ের গন্ধ, তাদের কাপড় এত দুর্গন্ধময়, এবং এমন ময়লা যে মানুষ তা কখনও কল্পনা করতে পারে না। এই যে এতগুলি লোককে বিচারের জন্য আটক রাখা হয়েছে, এবং মাসের পর মাস, বছরের পর বছর তাদের এই রকমভাবে হাজতে রেখে তিলে তিলে মারা হচ্ছে, অথচ সেটা হাকিমের খেয়াল হয় না। এইটের প্রতি আমি বিশেষ করে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চাই। যিনি বিচারাসনে বসেন তাঁর কর্তব্য হচ্ছে যে, পুলিশকে জিজ্ঞাসা করা যে, এতগুলি আসামীকে এতদিন ধরে হাজতে কেন আটক রাখা হয়েছে। এদের বিরুদ্ধে final charge sheet দিতে কেন এত দেরী হয়? জামিন দিতে গেলে জামিন নেওয়া হয় না। কাউকে জামিন দিলেও তাকে কোন নির্দিষ্ট সহরে বা এলাকায় রাখা হয় এবং কাহারো সাথে মিশতে দেওয়া হয় না। দোষী সাব্যস্ত করবার পূর্বেই অনেককে এক বছরেরও উপর জেল খাটিয়ে নেওয়া হয়। অনেক সময় পুলিশ final charge দিতে পারে না তখন তাদের বিরুদ্ধে মকদ্দমা তুলে নেওয়া হয়, অথবা তাদের discharge করা হয়।

এই অবস্থাটার প্রতি আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চাই। হাকিমকে জিজ্ঞাসা করা উচিত তিনি বিচারাসনে বসে, তথাপি এত অবিচার কেন হয়?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 94,60,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the method of recruitment of judicial officers from the Bar.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for a long time I did not table any cut motion against the Department presided over by such an attractive a personality as our present Minister of Justice. It is very difficult to be hard on such a person. His outstanding qualities are uncommon simplicity and abiding sense of humour. But, that he had been able to permeate the whole Department with a sense of humour was unknown to me before I came upon a comment in one of the recent issues of that well known legal journal of this province, viz., The *Calcutta Weekly Notes*. The comment is on the subject of "Choosing Judges: a remarkable examination". Permit me, Sir, to quote a few words from that comment:—

"In our opinion the experts who designed the recent examination of lawyer candidates for a District Judgeship deserve to be much better known and we hope this reference to their performance will give them small publicity, inadequate though it might be, for their inventive genius. The examination, we are informed, commenced with a written paper in English. It contained twelve questions which were to be answered in thirty minutes. The questions carried equal value and were more or less of the same nature, of which two reproduced below may be taken as the type. We have been unable to obtain a copy of the printed question paper, for copies handed over to the examinees were, with great foresight, collected back from them. The language of the questions set out below is therefore our own, but we have had it checked by more than one examinee and have been assured that it represents correctly the substance of the questions.

"(1) In a certain tank live garpas, tennels and eels. Tennels eat eels and eels eat dead bodies of garpas. Tennels can swim faster than garpas. If feeding of the fish were stopped, which of them would survive?" My friend Mr. Kiran Sanker Roy says that the Ministry will survive in any case. Through sheer wit, it will, but there is another question equally interesting.

"(2) He has no brother or sister. Looking at a picture, he exclaimed "Oh, his father is my father's son?.

Whose picture was he looking at?"

"The remaining questions were of the same character. The Legal Remembrancer of the Province who presided at the examination is reported to have remarked that if any one could answer all the twelve questions correctly, he would not be wasted in a District Judgeship but would be sent straight to the Privy Council. We are prepared to believe that this was intended to be an exhibitation of humour and not to represent the speaker's idea of the qualifications necessary for membership of the Judicial Committee".

The comments further reveal:

"The second part of the examination was also a written paper, but in Bengali. There were eighty questions, all to be answered in half an hour. Some of the questions were framed on a common plan which was that a number of things were first mentioned, forming a series, and then a number of other things were mentioned forming another series and candidates were asked to say which item of the latter series was common to or would fit in with all the items of the first. In other words, they were asked to find out from among the second series the greatest common measure of the things first mentioned. We are afraid no one will be able to form an idea of questions of so original a character unless we set out one of them. We do so below—

(1) Table; Bed; Hammer.

(2) Wood; softness; floor.

Say which of (2) is common to all of (1).

In both papers a number of answers were appended to each question and the candidates were only asked to choose the right answer from them".

Now, Sir, was it an examination for the selectin of a District Judge or District Joker? I hope the Hon'ble Minister will enlighten us on this question in his own way. But this is how District Judges nowadays are being selected from the Bar.

Then, Sir, to come to the other question about the appointment of Munsiffs, recently our honourable friend Mr. Patiram Roy put a question to this effect.

"Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state how many appointments have been made in his Department since January, 1942, and how many of them are clerks, Munsiffs and Sub-Judges?" The answer to this part was given no doubt. But the next question was: "If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names, batch by batch, of those who have been recommended by the Public Service Commission for appointment?" The answer here was: "The names cannot be disclosed as the matter is treated as confidential". Then, the names of the appointed candidates were also asked. That information could not be withheld because it could be easily ascertained from the Civil List. Therefore those names were given. But the names of the persons recommended by the Public Service Commission were discreetly withheld.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: I want two minutes more, Sir, if the Public Service Commission had been appointed to deal impartially with the questions of appointment, certainly no part of its proceeding, not surely its recommendation, should be withheld from the public, but the Hon'ble Minister in his super intelligence thought it fit not to publish the names of those recommended by the Public Service Commission though as many as 78 Munsiffs were appointed. One can legitimately infer from such an uncommunicative attitude that the Hon'ble Minister was afraid to disclose the names recommended because the appointments were not made in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Service Commission. The recommendations of the Public Service Commission could not be published because they were not followed.

Sir, to sum up, my question is: should we suffer mockery and nepotism to continue in the administration of Judicial Department in this province simply because they are combined with abundant naivete? That is the one question I put to the Assembly and let the Assembly answer it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel rather disinclined to spoil the good humour to which the House has been put this evening by our esteemed friend Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri and if I move my motion to reduce the demand by a sum of Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the administration of the High Court and abuses in the lower courts it is more with a view to invite the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge who is reputed for his fair-mindedness and for his determination to rule the High Court in a proper Mughal way than to really bring the High Court down in the esteem of the public. Last year I invited the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the manner in which the High Court has been, through the dispensation of justice, particularly in regard to criminal appeals and in political cases, gradually getting down in public esteem. This time I do not propose to deal with the matter that way, and I am quite conscious that you, Sir, are very particularly watching me so that I may not repeat my charges in the manner I did last year and some technical difficulty may not arise.

The first thing I feel, Sir, is that the High Court still continues to maintain a sort of exclusiveness in regard to lawyers of a particular category, and although this House had passed the Advocates Robes Bill and the Bill is now awaiting presentation and passing through the Council the High Court has not as yet responded to the desire expressed by this House at least and has not a uniform practice for robes introduced in the High Court. This is a matter that is being felt, very keenly felt, by many members of the legal profession and particularly by leading men in the Vakils' Library, and I believe it is a matter which is the least the Hon'ble Minister can talk over with the Chief Justice and have it introduced without any difficulty.

There are matters regarding administration of justice which are not within the purview of this Legislature, but Sir, the references that I want to make would be in regard to criminal appeals and the administration of such appeals while they are in the custody of the High Court. I am not desirous of raising the issue regarding the carriage or miscarriage of justice but the manner in which these criminal appeals are summarily dealt with without even giving a proper opportunity to the suffering accused or convicted persons to present or to reopen their case, even within the four corners of the law that permits him to reopen in certain circumstances the questions of fact through motions, is a matter that is creating great hardship.

In regard to political cases the apathy of the High Court has been during the last few months rather proverbial. There are independent judges of the High Court who have during this period been feeling rather unhappy because of certain things that happen behind the screen which make it impossible for them to carry on with independence.

In regard to the lower courts than the High Court numerous complaints have come and one class of complaint I would particularly invite your attention to. Under an Ordinance special tribunals have recently been set up for trial even of ordinary crimes and where formerly one Deputy Magistrate or one Magistrate was juite competent to deal with cases—simple cases—of breach of trust or of misaappropriation, three judges are now sitting at an enormous expenditure involved to the State and although the ostensible ground made out was to expedite these trials, in actual practice our experience is that trials are inordinately delayed. If a reference is made to the proceedings of the Alipore Special Judge's Court this thing will be made perfectly clear. Not only that. Although certain persons are designated as judges, under their very nose the Public Prosecutor is allowed to practically enter the witness box and tutor the witnesses to say things in a particular manner and the judges do not interfere. It is like the mufassil mukteers preparing their cases.

Sir, as time will not permit, I will not deal with the large number of abuses in the lower courts which I intended to discuss; but I would only invite your attention to one matter of which I had personal experience recently. In connection with a case in which a police constable was found by me to be taking through a boy some illegal gratification at Howrah Station, when I appeared before the court as a witness the summons being sent to me after a lapse of nearly ten months. I discovered that the court had detained that young boy for more than ten months without bail and when I enquired why for one anna or two annas levied this boy was kept in detention and lockup for such a long time, the court frankly said, "because there was no printed form for bail". For months, the court pleaded, the police did not care for personal liberty of persons as much as for the printed form, and there was scarcity of printed forms and consequently persons were sent back to the prison There was no opportunity given to the accused to produce a piece of paper from outside and write out something in his own way. He was summarily sent back to the jail *hajat* because there was no printed form available!

Similarly, Sir, in other directions also such absurd things are happening, and I submit that the delay in disposal of cases, particularly criminal cases, has now grown into a proportion that need an early and immediate attention.

With these remarks, Sir, I move my motion and I trust that the Hon'ble Minister will be pleased to accept my motion because it is a very inoffensive one.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rising to speak a few words on the Judicial budget, I feel it my duty to offer my thanks to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department, for he at least is one who has tried to implement the decision taken by Government with regard to the appointment of candidates of different communities in the services, at least under his charge.

Sir, it so happened a few months ago that Government thought they should have a few members of the Scheduled Castes as Munsifs in the Bengal Judicial Service. Since these were appointments to be made by Government, they had to refer the matter to the Public Service Commission of the province for recommendation to Government according to certain rules. There were certain qualifications laid down. The Public Service Commission took it up, had the matter advertised and called for applications. Sir, we do not know what happened behind the screen, but we can only say that there were candidates—very good candidates indeed—who answered to the qualifications laid down in the rules as also in the advertisement issued by the Public Service Commission, but unluckily, or perhaps usually as it has

happened to us, the Commission said that they did not find—not a qualified candidate but—a suitable candidate. When the matter reached Government, we do not know what happened there again but we can presume to some extent that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department rather took up a strong attitude. It must have been so, otherwise the matter would not have been referred back to the Public Service Commission for trying their best to find out candidates according to the rules and according to the qualifications laid down for the particular service. The matter was advertised again and on this occasion the Public Service Commission—the same Commission—was good enough to suggest the names of eight qualified candidates to the Government for making their final choice. Sir, even then they tried to put in two candidates who did not fall under the category of "Scheduled Castes" as classified in the schedule to the Government of India Act. The matter was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister and he was good enough to remove the names of these two candidates from the list and he took the decision in the end by appointing the four candidates for whom advertisement was issued in the first instance. These four suitable candidates or qualified candidates would not have been called upon to wait for months, had it not been for the attitude taken up by those friends of ours. Whenever any question is asked on the floor of the House of any Minister, he is not only not courteous to explain the position but he takes up the attitude of supporting such a Commission saying that there are no qualified candidates available from amongst the members of the Scheduled Castes. It seems, Sir, so startling to me in 1945 to be told by any member of the Cabinet who is answerable to this House and to the country at large that he does not find a qualified Scheduled Caste candidate for any appointment of this description where general education and experience of a general type were only called for. I would have understood the position if it was explained that this was an appointment for which technical knowledge was necessary or for which scientific experience was called for and if the Ministry said that candidates were not available from amongst the Scheduled Castes who would answer to the scientific or technical qualifications. Where only general education is necessary, it is not only surprising but it is most unfortunate that things should have been done by the Ministry in this way. But on this occasion I would only congratulate the Minister in charge of the Judicial Department that he did not submit himself to the whimsical recommendation of the Public Service Commission. A few matters of this nature have again been lying with the Public Service Commission and with the Government also for some time now. I hope, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department will now take courage to see that this decision is followed and that whenever candidates who answer to the requirements of any particular service are available, he should see that these appointments are made without trying to shelve the question by suggesting that suitable candidates are not available. Suitability has never been defined, we can only understand them if they say that candidates possessing the required qualifications are not available If the Ministry have something up their sleeves, I am afraid, I cannot follow it, but so long as the rules stand, they should only go by the same. I hope and trust that they will not shelve this important question and will not make our position ridiculous in this House and outside. I would once again congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for having taken courage to do only bare justice to this community.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Sir, I will first begin with Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal. He put forward the case of his own district where some appointment was made of a Public Prosecutor some 3 or 4 years ago. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He did not mention the district.) Presumably his own district. He was quite satisfied with the man for some time and told me that the appointment was very popular. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Who said that? You are making a great mistake.) I do not know what has happened

(Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Where was I at that time?) You were not in jail at that time. Now, that appointment is being questioned after four years. If it was unpopular, if anything wrong was done there, the best thing would have been for him to come forward at once and tell the House that a wrong thing has been done. After four years of appointment, after he has done some work and after the District Magistrate and others had the opportunity of knowing the quality of the work that has been put in by this man, now to say.....(Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: If a wrong is done, is it a policy of the Government that this should not be remedied?) So, if the appointment was not proper, he could have come to me then and there and I could go through the matter. But after he has worked for four years and after he has given satisfaction to the District Magistrate and the people there, if he comes and says that the man should not have been appointed because he has some connection with some organisation, how can I support him now? If he came then and there, I might have supported him.

As regards the position of the District Magistrate if my honourable friend wants to say that the District Magistrate must not be consulted by a Public Prosecutor in conducting cases, I do not know what other person should be in charge of the district and who should give opinion about conducting cases. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: The judge's opinion should be final.) As regards the District Judge, he is a District Judge. He cannot be consulted. If the Public Prosecutor thinks of approaching the District Judge and thereby doing wrong to the country, I cannot support him. The Public Prosecutor must not go to the District Judge under any circumstances whatsoever, because the Judge must remain absolutely independent. He must not be allowed to have anything to do with the Public Prosecutor. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Everybody knows that.) Now, Sir, if my honourable friend says that the Public Prosecutor should have connection only with the District Judge (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Appear before him and get his sanction for selection) and with nobody else, how can a Public Prosecutor do his duty? I cannot accept the idea that the District Magistrate must not be allowed to give directions to the Public Prosecutor. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHER SANYAL: He can act only as a client and not as an overlord.) This I cannot accept.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is it the policy of Government ——

Mr. SPEAKER: You are not entitled to interrupt him.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: But I am entitled to ask questions. Is it the policy of Government not to take the opinion of the District Judge in the matter of appointment of Public Prosecutors?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What about 3 years rule?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: As regards the three years' rule, this is a healthy practice that was introduce not in my time but probably 15 years before I became a Minister. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Discontinue it.) The three years' rule has been working satisfactorily and I can tell you this much that no one has suffered on account of this three years' rule. Anybody who has worked well to the satisfaction (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Of the Magistrate) yes, of the Magistrate and the Judge (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: The Judge's opinion was not consulted in this case) he is reappointed, and in my time during the last seven years I do not remember that any man who has worked for three years has not been reappointed. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: It is automatically extended.) Yes it is. If you want to take some drastic step, if you want to do away with reappointment you can tell me (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I do) and I will see whether it is right or wrong afterwards. But at this stage we cannot accept the proposition

and I will have to oppose the motion. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What about lunches? Lunch and dinner is part of your speech.) (Laughter.)

As regards visiting the Minister to please him every three years, I have never seen any Public Prosecutor approaching me in the course of three years to get a renewal of his service. I never go to any district just for the sake of fun only. I am in Calcutta and if I go anywhere I go to Jalpaiguri. If my honourable friend would like to put down that as Minister I visited the Public Prosecutor of his district I must deny the charge. I have not seen the Public Prosecutor at all. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Shall we see you? What is the address?)

As regards Mr. Mal, he has made certain allegations of a very serious character before the House. I can assure him that his speech will be duly considered and, if necessary, it will be sent to Midnapur just for the District Magistrate's knowledge and action. This, I think, ought to satisfy him.

Then comes my honourable friend Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri. He charged the Government in connection with the examination of certain candidates as judicial officers. Those examinations are held by experts. Government have practically nothing to do with them. If any wrong question has been put, the fault is that of the experts and not that of Government and these experts are properly paid for that. They hold examinations and give the result and Government works on that result. Government has nothing to do with these examinations or how these examinations are conducted by the experts. If you want to blame the experts, you can do so but you cannot blame Government and say that Government has done a wrong thing. We are not to blame for the action of the experts. Let the experts be held responsible.

Then as regards some remarks of my honourable friend Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal. This time I must say he is very level headed. He has not said anything this time to which I can take much exception. There are such big things as the administration of justice. If my friend has raised some objections—and I must say that it is quite natural—I do not like to say that he is absolutely wrong.

As regards the High Court, I cannot understand this. On the one hand I hear that the High Court does wrong to Government and that whenever a Government case is brought before the High Court the Judges hold against Government. (Laughter.) That is what I hear. Now politicians say that they are not getting justice at the hands of the High Court. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Abolish the High Court and introduce Debt Settlement Boards in its place.) I appeal to Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal to think that so far as the High Court is concerned the High Court will give some relief if others do not give him relief. We cannot blame the High Court for that. So, here the decision of the High Court is questioned. They are trying their best to help the country with their decisions. Sometimes decisions are against Government and sometimes decisions are against particular individuals. We must yield to their decision and if they do any wrong to anybody he can take the matter to a higher court for changing that order. So, I say that we cannot blame the High Court for the way in which they are discharging their duties. The High Court is not prepared to please anybody but doing justice in every case.

Some complaints have been made about the Alipore Tribunal. That Tribunal was appointed by the Government of India and the cost in respect of that body is borne by the Government of India. If they do anything wrong you cannot perhaps blame the local Government. With these few words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 94,60,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice"

be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy behind the appointment and maintenance of Government pleaders and public prosecutors, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal that the demand of Rs. 94,60,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about making unnecessary delay in disposing cases arising out of August, 1942, disturbances was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs. 94,60,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the method of recruitment of Judicial Officers from the Bar, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 94,60,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the administration of the High Court and the abuses in the Lower Courts, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur that a sum of Rs. 94,60,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" was then put and agreed to.

28—Jails and Convict Settlements.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,10,70,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements".

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about policy of jail administration having special reference to allowance given to convict overseers.

I beg further to move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about policy of jail administration having special reference to library, clothings, latrines, water arrangement for convicts and prisoners.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about policy of jail administration having reference to unhealthy system in the cell arrangement of the jails.

I beg further to move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about policy of jail administration having special reference to supply of mosquito curtains to the convicts in the jails.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about policy in jail administration having reference to insanitary condition and insufficient supply of medicine and food to patients and the beds supplied to the class III convict or undertrial patients.

Mr Speaker, Sir, জেল জিনিষটা সকলের পক্ষে সুখের নয় এটা ঠিক কথা। কোন কোন লোক জেলে যেতে ভালবাসে, অধিকাংশ লোক জেলে যেতে ভালবাসে না। কতকগুলি দোষের কাজ করলে জেলে যেতে হয় এজন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের আইনও আছে। গভর্ণমেণ্টের এই জেল প্রথা সৃষ্টি করবার উদ্দেশ্যে এই যে যে সমস্ত দোষ আইনের আমলে আসে বা যে সমস্ত কার্য্যকে দোষ বোলে বলা হয় সেই সমস্ত দোষের কাজ করলে দোষীকে জেলে আটকে রেখে যাতে সে ভবিষ্যতে সেই দূষণীয় কাজ না করে সেইভাবে তাকে সংশোধন করবার উদ্দেশ্যেই জেলে আটকে রাখার প্রথা আছে। যে কোন সভ্যজাতির গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই নীতি গ্রহণ করেছে। জেলে আটকে রেখে সংশোধন করতে হলে তার যেসব জিনিষ

দরকার তা প্রত্যেক গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিবেচ্য। আবার মাঝে মাঝে তারও পরিবর্তন করতে হয়। একটা দৃষ্টান্ত দিয়ে বলি। জেলের মধ্যে classification ভাগ আছে। তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর কয়েদী হচ্ছে সব চেয়ে বেশী। সে যে কোন অপরাধ করুক না কেন--রাজনৈতিক হউক, খুন জখম করুক বা অন্যান্য যে কোন রকম অপরাধ করুক না কেন সে তৃতীয়, দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণী বা প্রথম শ্রেণী হ'তে পারে। বেশীর ভাগ তৃতীয় শ্রেণী এবং তাদের কথাই আমি বলব। তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর কয়েদীদের যে জেলে রাখা হয়, সেখানকার যারা কর্তৃপক্ষ অর্থাৎ সুপারিণ্টেণ্ডেণ্ট, জেলার বা ডেপুটি জেলার--সকলেই সেই সমস্ত কয়েদীদের একান্ত প্রভু এবং এমন প্রভু যে কোন স্ত্রী তার স্বামীর কাছে এতখানি প্রভুত্ব আশা করে না। তাদের এমন সব কাজ করতে হয় যে অনিচ্ছা থাকলেও করতে হবে, না করলে মহা ফ্যাসাদে পড়তে হবে। জেলের ভিতরে তাদের খাওয়া, পরা, শোওয়া সকল বিষয়েতেই খুব বেশী কঠোরতা অবলম্বন করা হয়। কাজেই তাকে সংশোধন করবার জন্য যে জেলে পাঠান হয় তার কিছুই হয় না। যেখানে খুব বেশী মাত্রায় প্রভুত্বের মধ্যে রাখা হয় সেখানে তাকে সংশোধন করবার ব্যবস্থা হ'তে পারে না কারণ তাকে অতি হীনভাবেই রাখা হয়। কাজেই কোন গভর্ণমেণ্টের তাকে সংশোধন করবার ইচ্ছা আছে বা সেটা তার করা উচিত তা মনে হয় না। তার খাওয়া এত জঘন্য যে অনেক সময় কল্পনা করা যায় না। হয়ত গভর্ণমেণ্টের একটা রেশনের ব্যবস্থা আছে যে, ৵৸৵০ বা এত চাল পাবে। সেই চালের মধ্যে অধিকাংশ সময় পাথর কুচি মিশান থাকে, আবার অনেক সময় খুব খারাপ চাল দেওয়া হয় যা সে খেতে পারে না। ডাল তরকারীও অনেক সময় দেওয়া হয় না। অনেক সময় দেওয়া হয় কতকগুলি শুকনো ডাঁটা বা যার বয়স হয়েছে সেগুলো সিদ্ধ করা যায় না। কাজেই ছোট ছোট কুচি কোরে তরকারী করা হয়। যে পরিমাণ তরকারী দেবার কথা তার মধ্যে আলু বা অন্য ভাল জিনিষ যা দেওয়া যেতে পারে তা দেওয়া হয় না। তার কারণ তাদের প্রতি যে কোন গভর্ণমেণ্টের দরদ আছে তা মনে হয় না। দোষ করেছে বটে কিন্তু তাকে ভাল citizen কর আটকে রেখে। শুধরে আনবার উদ্দেশ্য যদি গভর্ণমেণ্টের থাকে তাহলে তাদের প্রতি এরকম বেদরদী ব্যবহার করা উচিত নয়। তারা যত লোকই হউক না কেন একটা নির্দ্দিষ্ট সংখ্যক পায়খানা থাকে। সাধারণ অবস্থায় সে পায়খানা তাদের পক্ষে যথেষ্ট। কিন্তু যদি তার capacityর বাহিরে যায় অর্থাৎ ১,১০০ জায়গায় যদি ২ হাজার আড়াই হাজার বা ৩ হাজার হয় তাহলেও সেই latrineএর দ্বারা তাদের চালাতে হয়। তখন সেই ময়লার যে অবস্থা হয়, চতুর্দ্দিকে যে রকম নোংরা হয় তা বর্ণনাতীত। সেটা দেখলে মনে হয় এই সমস্ত কয়েদীদের প্রতি গভর্ণমেণ্টের কোন দরদ নাই। তা ছাড়া তাদের চিরকাল একটা grievance আছে যে class III prisonersদের মশারী দেওয়া হয় না। জেলের ভিতরে বড় বড় মশা তাদের ক্ষত বিক্ষত কোরে দেয়। যারা জেলে গিয়েছে তারাই সেটা বিশেষ কোরে বলতে পারবে, কিম্বা যারা জেল visit করেছে তারা অনুভব করতে পারবে, অথবা যারা বাড়ীতে কোন দিন বিনা মশারীতে শুয়েছে তারা ভাল রকম সেটা বুঝতে পারবে। হয়ত গভর্ণমেণ্ট বলবেন যে বাহিরের যে সমস্ত লোক কয়েদখানায় যায় তাদের ভাগ্যে মশারীতে শোওয়া জোটে না, সেইজন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট মশারীর ব্যবস্থা করেন না। এটা অত্যন্ত ভুল কথা। তার কারণ এমন অনেক ভদ্রলোকের ছেলে class IIIতে থাকে যারা বাড়ীতে মশারীতে শুয়ে থাকে। সেই সব ক্ষেত্রে তাদের কি পরিমাণ কষ্ট হয় তা যারা জেল দেখেছেন বা জেলের কয়েদী হয়ে একবার বোঝবার চেষ্টা করেছেন তাদের পক্ষে সেটা অনুমান করা সহজ হবে। আজকে যাঁরা এখানে বসে আছেন তাঁরা প্রদেশের প্রতিনিধি, কাজেই যারা ভোট দেয় তাঁদের কেউ যদি পদস্খলন হয়ে জেলে যায় তারা কিভাবে থাকবে কিভাবে তাদের চরিত্র সংশোধন করবে একথা তাঁদের বিশেষ বিবেচ্য হওয়া উচিত। এ কথা অস্বীকার করলে বলতে হবে তাঁরা যথার্থ প্রতিনিধির করতে চান না, কেবল এখানে এসেম্বলির মেম্বর হয়েছেন এইটাই স্মরণ রেখেছেন। কাজেই তাদের মশারী দেবার কথা আজ পর্য্যন্ত গভর্ণমেণ্টের কানে পৌঁছায়নি। কিন্তু এ বিষয়টিতে গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিশেষ দৃষ্টি দেওয়া উচিত। কারণ তারা মশারী অভাবে গ্রীষ্মের রাত্রে কম্বল গায়ে দিয়ে থাকতে বাধ্য হয়, নইলে মশায় ক্ষত বিক্ষত কোরে দেয়। এটা এমন গুরুতর ব্যাপার নয়। আর class III prisoners মশারী পেলে গলায় দড়ি দিয়ে মরে যাবে এটা ভুল কথা। একথা যদি কেউ বলেন তাহলে তিনি অবিবেচনার কথাই বলবেন।

তারপর জেলে যে সমস্ত কয়েদী লেখাপড়া জানে তাদের বই দিতে হলে মান্ধাতার আমলে যে ছেঁড়া বই কেনা হয়েছিল--যার হয়ত অর্দ্ধেক পাতা নাই সেই রকম বই দেওয়া হয়। এখন প্রতি বৎসর নূতন নূতন বই হচ্ছে, কিন্তু সে সব বই তাদের জেলে কিনে দেওয়া হয় না। সেইজন্য যারা লেখাপড়া জানে তারা ইচ্ছা থাকলেও সেই সব বই পড়তে পারে না। এবং যা অতীত বিদ্যা আছে সেটা বাড়াইবার সুযোগ পায় না।

আর একটা কথা হচ্ছে যে জেলেতে যে হাসপাতাল আছে সেখানে কয়েদীরা ব্যারাম হ'লে সোয়ার খাটিয়া পায়, কিন্তু তাতে গদী থাকে না, সামান্য একখানা বা দুখানা কম্বল দেওয়া হয় কিন্তু মশারী দেওয়া হয় না।

রোগের যন্ত্রণায় তারা ছট্‌কট্‌ করে তার উপর আবার মশার যন্ত্রনায় ছটকট করলে তাদের ব্যারাম ভাল হওয়া দূরের কথা, ব্যারাম বৃদ্ধিই পায়। অন্ততঃপক্ষে হাসপাতালে যারা থাকে তারা class IIIর হলেও তাদের মশারী দেওয়া, পরিষ্কার বিছানার চাদর দেওয়া ডাক্তারীর দিক থেকে, sanitationএর দিক থেকে একান্ত উচিত। এ বিষয়ে বোধ হয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে বুঝিয়ে বল্‌তে হবে না। যে সমস্ত লোককে convalescent করা হয় তারাও ভাল বিছানা পায় না। রোগের যন্ত্রণা থেকে শীঘ্র আরাম হতে পারে যদি ঘুমের ব্যবস্থা ভাল থাকে। এ বিষয়ে সকল ডাক্তারই একমত হবেন। জেলের ব্যাপারে দেখ্‌তে পাই সাধারণতঃ একজন বড় ডাক্তারই Superintendent তিনি হয় I. M. S. Officer নয় Civil Surgeon অর্থাৎ ডাক্তারী বিদ্যায় সর্ব্বোৎকৃষ্ট জ্ঞান লাভ করেছেন। আজ বিজ্ঞানের উন্নতির দিনে যেভাবে রোগের চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে তাতে তাঁরা যদি মশারীর ব্যবস্থা না করেন তবে তার চেয়ে আর দুঃখের বিষয় কি হ'তে পারে?

এই কয়েকটি কথা বোলে আমি মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি এই বিষয়ে আকর্ষণ করছি।

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to look into the grievances and amenities of the political, security and other prisoners, lack and loss of control over the jail administration, lack of supervision and failure of Government to release political and security prisoners.

Sir, I made out, in my opinion, a very good case for the wholesale release of political prisoners the other day, when I spoke on Dr. Sanyal's resolution. This is the cry of the public at large. The changed political situation justifies this but the Government have hopelessly failed to take courage and adopt this broad policy. Sir, they have not only been able to release the political prisoners wholesale but they have failed even to release those prisoners who have been suffering continuously from complicated diseases. There has been no release on the ground of health. Sir, they have not been able to grant amenities to the political and other prisoners which are there in the rules. They have not been able to end their consideration regarding the granting of personal allowance and study allowance. I do not know if they will decide this question before the doom's day.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Their doom's day!

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Till the doom's day.

Sir, I will not speak anything more but I shall read out a few letters and I shall try to impress upon the Government how these prisoners themselves inside the jails are thinking about the much-talked of liberal policy of Government. I will read about those prisoners who are suffering from illness. This is a letter from Mrs. Labanya Probha Das Gupta. She writes to me to say——

From Labanya Das Gupta (Presidency Jail, Alipore), 12th December 1944

"পরমশ্রদ্ধাস্পদেষু, আপনার ২৯শে নভেম্বর তারিখের চিঠি আমি পেয়েছি। কয়দিন ব্যথায় কষ্ট পেলাম তাই চিঠির জবাব দিতে দেরী হ'ল। Specialist আমায় দেখে গিয়েছেন। X-ray শীঘ্রই হবে আশা করছি। লিভারে সর্ব্বদা ব্যথা থাকায় জোরে হাঁটলে বা বেশীক্ষণ বসে থাকার জন্য চাপ লাগলে ব্যথা বেশী হয়। এছাড়া Gastric troubles তো সঙ্গী হয়েই আছে। কতকাল যে এই দুর্ব্বিসহ জীবনটাকে টেনে নিয়ে চলতে হবে তা ঠাকুরই জানেন।"

Then this is a letter from Pandit Dharanath Bhattacharya. He received injuries on his head during the assault in the Presidency Jail—

Letter from Pandit Dharanath Bhattacharjya (Dum Dum Central Jail).

"৫ই যে পড়িয়া যাইবার পর হইতে আজ পর্য্যন্ত শয্যাশায়ী। মলমূত্র ত্যাগ ও স্নানের সময় একজনকে ধরিয়া লইতে হয়। এ যাবৎ ৫ মিনিট বসিয়া থাকিতে পারি না, থাকিলে মাথা ঘুরিতে থাকে। সুতরাং এক মাস বিছানায় শায়িত অবস্থায় থাকিতে হইতেছে। ৩১শে যে সাক্ষাতের জন্য চেয়ারে করিয়া গিয়াছিলাম তাহার ফলে পুনরায় আবার অসুখ বেশী হইয়াছে।"

Then this is a letter written by a prisoner who has been released recently:—

Letter from Sreebash Chandra Das (released prisoner).

শ্রীযুত শ্যামাচরণ খাঁন মহাশয় বালুরঘাট মোকদ্দমায় ৭ বৎসর কারাদণ্ডে দণ্ডিত হইয়া মেদিনীপুর সেণ্ট্রাল জেলে বর্ত্তমানে অবস্থান করিতেছেন। কিছু দিন যাবৎ তিনি slow feverএ ভুগিতেছিলেন। জেলের ডাক্তারগণ প্রথমতঃ neglect করেন, পরে তাঁহার কাশির সহিত রক্ত দেখা দেয় এবং শেষ পর্য্যন্ত ডাক্তারগণ নাকি থাইসিস বলিয়া সাব্যস্ত করেন। সম্প্রতি তিনি দুর্বল। জনশ্রুতিতে তিনি শুনিয়াছেন এবং নিজে বুঝিতে পারিয়াছেন যে তাঁহার জীবন-প্রদীপ হয়ত কারাগারে চিরনির্ব্বাণ লাভ করবে। সুপারিণ্টেণ্ডেণ্ট সাহেবের নির্দ্দেশে তিনি এখন serious listএ অবস্থান করিতেছেন। বাড়ীতে তাঁহার স্ত্রী, একটী কন্যা ও একটী শিশু পুত্র আছে। ভগবান না করুন যদি এই অবস্থায় শ্যামবাবুর জীবনের হানি ঘটে বা কোন কিছু হয় তাহলে তাঁর স্ত্রী-পুত্র-কন্যাগণ অসহায় হইয়া অতলে ডুবিবে। এবতাবস্থায় আপনি তাঁহার মুক্তির জন্য যত্নবান হইবেন, ইহাই আমার প্রার্থনা।

There are prisoners who are fit to be classified but have not been classified even though the sentences had been passed two years ago during the last movement. There is another Satish Chandra Mukherjee who has been sentenced to 7 years' rigorous imprisonment. Another is Ajit Datta. They have not also been classified. Another released prisoner also writes—

Letter from another released prisoner

"মেদিনীপুর Central Jailএ ধীরেন্দ্র বর্ম্মণ, শ্যামাপদ খাঁ, বিশ্বরঞ্জন সেন, ঘটি মুখার্জী, ইয়াকুব আলি, আবদুল জব্বর মিয়া মোট ছয় জন তৃতীয় শ্রেণী হিসাবে রহিয়াছেন। ইহার মধ্যে প্রায় সকলেই ডিভিসন পাওয়া উপযুক্ত। ইহা ছাড়া কর্ত্তৃপক্ষের অযৌক্তিক মনোভাব ও স্থায়ী অসুবিধা সকলের জন্য তাহাদের জীবন দুর্বিসহ হইয়া উঠিয়াছে। উহাদের মধ্যে ধীরেন্দ্র নাথ বর্ম্মণের দৃষ্টিশক্তি ক্ষীণ হইয়া আসিতেছে। শরীর ক্রমশঃ খারাপ হইয়া পড়িতেছে। শ্যামাপদ খাঁর T B হইয়াছে বলিয়া ধরিয়া লওয়া যায় নিঃসন্দেহে। বিশ্বরঞ্জনেরও slow fever ও ওজন হ্রাস লক্ষিত হইতেছে। এবং বাকী সকলের অবস্থাও প্রায় অনুরূপ। Superintendent তৃতীয় শ্রেণী সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ করিয়া অন্ধ। দীর্ঘ ৭ বৎসর পরে এই সব সুসন্তানদের মধ্যে কাহাকে যে ফিরিয়া পাইবেন বলিতে পারি না। পাঁচ পাউণ্ডের নীচে weight কমিলে Medical Departmentএর বন্দোবস্ত আইন অনুযায়ী করিতেই হইবে। কিন্তু এখানে আবেদন করিয়াও ফল হয় না। জাজিম, কুঠা কাচিবার কোন বন্দোবস্ত নাই, যাহা আইন অনুযায়ী করিয়া দিতে হইত। সাজি মাটি যাহা দেওয়া হয় তাহাতে কাপড় পরিষ্কার হয় না। সাজি মাটি ভিজাইবার জন্য গরম জলের কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। পায়খানা ইত্যাদি মোটেই পরিষ্কার রাখা হয় না। তরকারী, চাল-ডাল যাহা দেওয়া হয় তাহা প্রায়ই খাদ্যের অযোগ্য হয়।"

This is regarding Midnapore Central Jail.

This is from a prisoner Sudhir Adhikari from Buxa Special Jail—

Letter from Sudhir Adhikari (Buxa Special Jail).

গত মার্চ্চ মাসে আমি এখানে এসেছি। সেই সময় থেকেই উপর পেটের ভিতরে একটা জ্বালা রোজই দুপুরে খাবার পরে অনুভব করতাম। তারপরে গত সেপ্টেম্বর মাস থেকে জ্বালার সঙ্গে বেদনাও অনুভব করতে আরম্ভ করি। ক্রমে এ রকম অবস্থা হয় যে সব সময়ই বেদনা ও জ্বালা হতে থাকে। তখন তিন সপ্তাহ কেবল দুধ খেয়ে থাকি। বেদনা ও জ্বালা এখনও চলছে। এখানকার চিকিৎসায় কোন ফল হয় নাই। Transferএর জন্য Medical Officer লিখেছেন। কিন্তু সেটা কতদিনে কার্য্যে পরিণত হবে জানি না।

This is from Biswanath Chakrabarty from the Rajshahi Central Jail—

Letter from Biswanath Chakraborty (Rajshahi Central Jail).

"বর্ত্তমানে চোখের যন্ত্রণা এমন বেড়েছে যে আমার পক্ষে তা সহ্য করা একেবারেই অসম্ভব হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে। ডাক্তার বলছেন যে খুব খারাপ গ্ল্যানুলা কনজনটিভাইটিস। চিকিৎসা কিছুই হচ্ছে না। আর ওজনও অসম্ভব রকম কমে গিয়েছে। কমতে কমতে মাত্র ৯৫ পাউণ্ড ওজনে এসে দাঁড়িয়েছে। অন্য কোথাও transfer করে যাতে চিকিৎসা হয় সে ব্যবস্থা যদি করতে পারেন তাহলে ভাল হয়।"

This is from Shohonlal Misra, security prisoner, from Dum Dum Central Jail—

Letter from Sohanlal Misra (Dum Dum Jail).

"আপনি জানেন যে এই শীতকালেই আমার শরীরের অবস্থা শোচনীয় হইয়া ওঠে। সংক্ষেপে বলতে গেলে লিভার, স্নায়ু, মস্তিষ্ক, দৃষ্টিশক্তি ক্ষয়, দুর্বলতাই আমার বর্তমান ব্যাধি। মেরুদণ্ড, ঘাড় ও মাথার যন্ত্রনায় অস্থির হইয়া পড়ি এবং জীবনের প্রতি একটা বিতৃষ্ণা আসে। ইহা ছাড়া chronic bronchitis, asthma, নাক এবং গলার রোগে বিশেষ কষ্ট পাইতেছি এবং রাত্রিকালে অনিদ্রায় কাটাইতেছি। মেডিকেল কলেজে specialist-দের ব্যবস্থাপত্র এখনও কার্যকরী হইতেছে না যদিও ৪ মাস এই জেলে কাটাইতেছি।"

I had occasion to live with him and I found him passing the whole night sitting on his bed without a wink of sleep.

This is from Nirmal Roy, M.A., from Dum Dum Central Jail—

Letter from Nirmal Roy, M.A. (Dum Dum Central Jail).

"আপনি জানেন যে আমার leucoderma আছে এবং ১৯৪১ সালে জেলে আসার পর থেকে আমার colitis ও chronic dysentery হয়েছে। জেলে এগুলির কোন রকম চিকিৎসা হইতেছে না। এখানে ১ বৎসরের উপর হ'ল এসেছি, কিন্তু অনেক চেষ্টা করেও Tropicalএ যাওয়া গেল না। মাস তিনেক আগে এখানে Skin Specialist এসেছিলেন। তিনি চিকিৎসার জন্য যেসব recommend ক'রে গেছেন তা এই জেল থেকে বন্দোবস্ত না হওয়ার জন্য কোন রকম চিকিৎসাই হচ্ছে না।"

A similar case is with one Sj. Prafulla Kumar Tripathi.

Then I shall read a few letters regarding allowances.

This is from Narendra Bhowmick from Dacca Central Jail—

Letter from Narendra Bhowmik

"আমরা ৪ ভাই ঢাকা জেলে নিরাপত্তা বন্দীরূপে আটক আছি। Four Brothers are detained in the Dacca Central Jail. আমার বৃদ্ধা বিধবা মাতা, বয়স ৬০ বৎসর, বৃদ্ধা বিধবা পিসীমা ৭০ বৎসর আর ১৪ বৎসর বয়সের ছোট বোন সহ মাত্র ৩টী স্ত্রীলোক বাড়ীতে রহিয়াছেন। আমরা ৩ ভাই কিছু কিছু উপার্জন করিতাম, অপরটী ছাত্র ছিল। আমাদের উপার্জনের দ্বারা সমস্ত সংসার খরচ চলিত। এমতাবস্থায় আমরা আটক হওয়াতে ৩টি অসহায় স্ত্রীলোক না খাইয়া মরিতে বসিয়াছে। আমাদের বর্তমান পরিস্থিতির কথা ও তাহাদের দুঃখ-দুর্দশার মর্মান্তিক কাহিনী বিবৃত করিয়া সদাশয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিয়া আসিতেছি। ২ বৎসর অতীত হইতে চলিল কোন প্রতীকার আজ পর্য্যন্ত হয় নাই। আমরা পরপর দরখাস্ত করিয়া আসিতেছি, পারিবারিক ভাতার ব্যবস্থা করা দূরে থাকুক এমন কি কোন উত্তরও দেয় নাই। ....আমাদের গ্রামবাসী, মাননীয় ব্যক্তি, ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের প্রেসিডেণ্ট, সরকারের নিকট পারিবারিক ভাতা মঞ্জুর করিবার জন্য সুপারিশ পত্র পাঠাইয়াছেন তথাপি এই সম্পর্কে আজ পর্য্যন্ত সরকার পক্ষ থেকে কোন আশ্বাস ও ভরসা পাই নাই।

This is a letter, dated 17th February 1945.

This is a letter from Madan Dhar, security prisoner, Dum Dum Central Jail—

Letter from Madan Dhar (Dum Dum Central Jail).

"আজ প্রায় ২।০ বছর আমি সিকিউরিটী বন্দী জীবন যাপন করছি। জেলে আসার পর আমার পারিবারিক ভাতার জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষের কাছে দরখাস্ত করি। আমার দরখাস্তের প্রায় ৩ মাস পর আমি জবাব পাই যে আমার ভাতার বিষয় কর্তৃপক্ষের বিবেচনাধীন রয়েছে। সংসারে ছিলেন একমাত্র আমার বিধবা দিদিমা, আমার স্ত্রী এবং এক বৃদ্ধা পিসীমা। এক বছর পর্য্যন্ত আমার ভাতার মঞ্জুরী বিষয়ে আর কোন জবাব পেলাম না, যদিও ক্রমাগত আমি কর্তৃপক্ষের কাছে reminder পাঠাই। ইতিমধ্যে বিগত ১৯৪৪ এর জানুয়ারী মাসে আমার বৃদ্ধা দিদিমা মারা যান; কর্তৃপক্ষের কাছে আমি আবার দরখাস্ত করি আমার বৃদ্ধা পিসীমা ও স্ত্রীর নামে উপযুক্ত ভাতা মঞ্জুরীর জন্য। এ দরখাস্তেরও কোন জবাব পাই নাই। তারপর বিগত আগষ্ট মাসে কর্তৃপক্ষ আমাকে জানান যে আমার স্ত্রীর নামে মাত্র ১৫৲ টাকা ভাতা মঞ্জুর করা হয়েছে। দেড় বৎসরের দীর্ঘ সময় অতিবাহিত হোয়ে এল আমার পারিবারিক ভাতার মঞ্জুরী। কিন্তু ঠিক তার কয়েকদিন পরে আমার স্ত্রী মারা যায় T. B. রোগে ভুগে। মঞ্জুরী করা ভাতা

সে আর ভোগ করতে গেল না। রোগে ভুগে, দারিদ্র্যের অনটনে তার ইহজীবন শেষ হয়ে গেল। কর্তৃপক্ষের কাছে আমি আবার দরখাস্ত পাঠাই যাতে মঞ্জুরী করা ঐ ভাতা যাতে আমার বৃদ্ধা পিসীমার নামে transfer করা হয়। অভাবে-অনটনে সেই বৃদ্ধা বিধবা কালাতিপাত করছেন, গ্রাসাচ্ছাদনের তার কোন উপায় নাই, এই দরখাস্তের কোন ফল আজও অবধি আমি পাই নি।"

২২শে ফেব্রুয়ারী তারিখে যে চিঠি লেখেন তাতে জানিয়েছেন যে সেই petition ও rejected হয়েছে।

This is a letter from Krishna Chandra Chatterjee not Krishna Kumar Chatterjee who has been released only after he lost his sense, who is a friend and supporter of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain—

"অতি দুঃখ পাইয়া আপনার নিকট গত বারের পত্রখানা লিখিয়াছিলাম। আমার সর্বজ্যেষ্ঠ ভ্রাতা অনাহারে অচিকিৎসায় মৃত্যুপথযাত্রী; আমি বন্দী, কোন সাহায্যেই আসিলাম না এই চিন্তা আমাকে একটি বিচলিত করিয়া তুলিয়াছিল। তাই আপনাকে ও গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছে দরখাস্ত করিয়াছিলাম। আপনার পূর্বেই গভর্ণমেণ্ট আমার দরখাস্ত নামঞ্জুর করিয়াছেন। কিন্তু এখন তার আর কোন মূল্য নাই। আমার শ্রদ্ধেয় দাদা আমাদের মায়াময়তা ত্যাগ করিয়া চলিয়া গিয়াছেন। মৃত্যুর জন্য আমার কোন দুঃখ নাই, আমি হিন্দু আত্মার অমরত্বে বিশ্বাসী, কিন্তু দুঃখ কখন হয় জানেন? দুঃখ হয় তখনই যখন দেখি আমার দাদা দিনের পর দিন অনাহারে অচিকিৎসায় তিলে তিলে মৃত্যুর পথে যাত্রা করিলেন। অসহায়া এক বৃদ্ধার চিঠি আমার টেবিলের একপাশে পড়িয়া আছে, কি করুণ বেদনা যে তাতে ফুটিয়া উঠিয়াছে তাহা একমাত্র আমিই জানি। চক্ষু ফাটিয়া যায়, অথচ একবিন্দু জল পড়ে না। নিশীথ না! এই সংসারে দুর্বলের কোন বন্ধু আছে কি?"

This is a letter from Jyotish Majumdar (Alipore Central Jail).

"আমার বিধবা বৃদ্ধা মাতার ভরণপোষণের জন্য পারিবারিক ভাতা চেয়ে বারবার মৃত্যুর পর থেকে প্রায় আজ ২ বৎসর ধরে বহু দরখাস্ত ক'রে আসছি কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় এখনও কোন জবাব পাই নি। আজ ১৪ বছর ধরে কারাজীবন যাপন ক'রে আসছি, তার উপর পাই মায়ের দুঃখপূর্ণ চিঠিগুলি। বুঝতেই পারছেন দিনগুলি কাটছে কেমন। আমার বড় ভাই আছে এবং তার আরও কিছু আছে একথা সত্য। কিন্তু তারা সবাই বিবাহিত স্ত্রীপুত্রকন্যায় পরিবৃত। তাদের যে সামান্য আয় আজকের এই অগ্নিমূল্য বাজারে তাদের নিজ নিজ পরিবারই চলে না, খাওয়াপরার ব্যবস্থা থাকিলেও হাত খরচের জন্য ভিন্ন ব্যবস্থা করার প্রয়োজন হয়। আমার বিশ্বাস প্রত্যেক পরিবারেরই এ ক্ষেত্রে প্রত্যক্ষ অভিজ্ঞতা আছে। আমাদের অনেকেরই নানা রকম খরচের দরকার।"

This is a letter from Rabindra Roy, Dum Dum Central Jail—

(As this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, I will take another 10 minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: 10 minutes? Let us see.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: This is a case where the allowance has been reduced—

"আমি ৮ই ডিসেম্বর ১৯৪৪ তারিখে আমাদের পরিবারের সমস্ত অবস্থা জানাইয়া আপনাকে একখানা পত্র লিখি এবং ঐ পত্রে আপনাকে জানাই যে সরকার আমাদের পরিবারকে যে ৪০৲ টাকা করিয়া ভাতা দেয় তাহা এই বৃহৎ পরিবারের ভরণপোষণের পক্ষে খুবই অল্প ও ভাতা যাতে বাড়ে সেজন্য চেষ্টা করিতে আপনাকে অনুরোধ করি। কিন্তু অদ্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট হইতে আমাকে জানান হইয়াছে যে আমার ভাতা ৪০৲ টাকা হইতে কাটিয়া ২০৲ টাকা করিয়া দেওয়া হইল। যখন আমি ও আমার পিতামাতা ভাতা বাড়াইবার জন্য দরখাস্ত করিতেছিলাম, তখনই কিনা ভাতা না বাড়াইয়া আমার ভাতা অর্দ্ধেক করিয়া দেওয়া হইল। গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রথম আমাকে ২০৲ টাকা ভাতা দেন। তার পর আমরা অনেক দরখাস্ত করিবার পর আমার ভাতা ৪০৲ টাকা করিয়া দেওয়া হয় এবং আমাকে জানান হয় যে যদি আমার পিতা কোন কাজ করেন তবে ভাতা কাটিয়া দেওয়া হবে এরূপ অদ্ভুত নিয়ম আমাকেই প্রথম দেওয়া হয়। আমার পিতার বয়স বর্তমানে ৭০ বৎসর। এই ৪০৲ টাকায় কোনমতে চলিত না বলিয়াই তাঁহাকে আবার কাজে যাইতে হয়। পূর্বে যে কাজে তিনি ২-৩ শত টাকা পাইতেন এখন ঐ কাজ হইতে অবসর গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন। বর্তমানে যদি তিনি part-time কোন কাজ করেনই বা তবু তাঁর আয় ৪০৲-৫০৲ টাকার বেশী হবে না। এই বৃদ্ধ বয়সে তিনি যে বাধ্য হইয়া কাজে নামিয়াছেন ইহাতেই আমাদের পরিবারের বিষয়টা কিছু উপলব্ধি করিতে পারিবেন। আমার পরিবারের লোকসংখ্যা ১৫।১৬ জন। আমার বৃদ্ধ পিতা

এবং বৃদ্ধ ঠাকুরদাদা তাঁর বয়স একশর উপর হবে। তিনি চলাফেরা করিতে পারেন না। এক ৮০ বৎসরের বৃদ্ধা দিদিমা আছেন, মায়ের বয়স প্রায় ৬৫ বৎসর; ছোট ৩-৪ জন অবিবাহিত বোন স্কুলে পড়িতেছিল। ছোট ২ জন পিসতুত ভাই, তাদের মা-বাবা নাই, আমাকেই ভরণপোষণ করিতে হয়।"

There are other letters which I do not want to read. I will read a few letters regarding leave and transfer. This is a letter from one Pradyot Kumar Das from Dum Dum Central Jail. He asked for leave on parole or transfer to his District Jail—

"আজ দুঃখের সঙ্গে জানাচ্ছি যে গতকাল বাড়ীর চিঠিতে জানলাম আমার ছোট ছেলেটি কলেরায় মারা গিয়েছে। বাড়ীতে এমন কেউ নাই যে আমার স্ত্রীকে এই বিপদে সান্ত্বনা দেবে। বরিশাল জেলে ট্রান্সফারের জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের Joint Secretary Mr Bapat এর কাছে চিঠি দিলাম। যে একটি ছোট ছেলে বেঁচে রয়েছে সেও ম্যালেরিয়া রোগে ভুগছে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট ছুটি হয়ত মঞ্জুর করবেন না, কিন্তু কয়েক মাসের জন্য যদি বরিশাল জেলে transfer করতেন তবে হয়ত এই বিপদে স্ত্রীপুত্রকে কতকটা সান্ত্বনা দেওয়া সম্ভব হ'ত।"

The reply received from Government is this—

"With reference to your representation regarding the security prisoner Pradyot Kumar Das for transfer to Barisal Jail I write to inform you that for security reasons it is not considered feasible to transfer this prisoner." (The reply is by Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali.)

(Showing another letter.) It is a letter from Tarapada Dhar. In this case the prisoner was granted leave to see his ailing mother. He was taken to Dinajpur but he could not be taken from the jail before his mother was unconscious—

আমি দিনাজপুর ষ্টেশনে পেঁৗছি ইং ২৬শে নভেম্বর ১৯৪৪, রাত্রি ১১টার সময়। জেলগেটে যাই সূর্যোদয়ের অনেক পূর্ব্বে তখন ৬টা হবে। আধ ঘণ্টার মত বাহিরে ছিলাম। জেলগেটে ঢোকবার পর জেলার বাবু জানিয়ে দিলেন তাড়াতাড়ি স্নানাহার সেরে নিন। যাই হোক কোন মতে স্নানাহার করেছি এমন সময় জেলগেটে ডাক পড়ল ইং ২৭শে নভেম্বর ১৯৪৪, তারিখ বেলা ১২।টায়। এলাম গেটে। দেখলাম আমাকে নেবার জন্য D. I. O. (II) উপস্থিত। অনেকক্ষণ জেলগেটে বসবার পর আমি তাগিদ দিলাম। তখন কেরাণী বাবু লাইনে ফোন করলেন ২।৩ বার ফোন করবার পর উত্তর এল আজ পুলিশ পার্টি দিতে পারব না, কারণ ঈদ উপলক্ষে আজ অসুবিধা। সদাশয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট আমার ছুটি মঞ্জুর করলেন অথচ কর্তৃপক্ষের উদাসীনতার জন্য যথাসময়ে আমি বাড়ীতে পেঁৗছাতে পারলাম না।"

There are many other letters regarding leave and transfer. I will not read all of them. (Showing a letter) I will make a present of this letter to the Home Minister regarding censoring of letters. This letter was written by Nirmal Kumar Roy from Dum Dum Central Jail on 2nd October 1944. That was censored by the Deputy Inspector-General, Intelligence Branch on 17th October 1944. The letter contains these few words:—

শুভেচ্ছা নিশীথ বাবু! আপনি আমার ৬বিজয়ার নমস্কার ও শুভেচ্ছা জানিবেন। ইতি বিনীত নির্ম্মল রায়।"

For censoring these two lines they required 15 days.

This is another letter (shown) written on 25th November 1944 from the Presidency Jail by Sj. Basanta Kumar Das. That was censored on 28th November but was posted one and a half months later and reached me on 16th January 1945.

Sir, I will make a present of another letter. This is a letter—post card—written by Arun Chandra Banerjee from the Rajshahi Jail. You will see (shown) there is nothing left of the letter in this post card. It is a completely black-outed letter.

This is another letter (shown). This is how it has been censored. This is a letter written by Leela Roy from Dinajpur. Though the rules provide that letters will be censored by District Police Officers, I do not know why this letter written from Dinajpur Jail is censored by the Deputy Inspector-General, Intelligence Branch of Bengal.

I shall then refer to restriction orders passed on several hundred prisoners after the prisoners have either been released or even on persons who were not detained. Sir, the kind of orders passed is also very relevant and this House should have some idea about the orders passed. The order runs as follows:—"Now therefore in exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (*d*), (*e*), (*g*) and (*h*) of sub-section (*1*) of section *3* of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944 (Ordinance III of 1944), I have been empowered, etc., etc.,.... I hereby direct that Babu Nripendra Nath Roy shall reside within the area of Dinajpur Kotwali in the district of Dinajpur and shall not leave this area without previous permission obtained in writing from me; that he shall personally attend the Kotwali police-station and report himself to the Officer in charge between 9 and 10 a.m. on every Friday. He shall not take part in any meeting, procession, assembly, or subversive movement and commit any act which will be prejudicial to the public order and tranquillity. He shall not in any manner distribute or disseminate any printed, cyclostyled, typed or written matter to any person or class of persons; he shall submit his person to search at any time by any Police Officer not below the rank of an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police; that this order should be in force for six months from the date on which it is made."

Now, by these restrictive orders they have been prevented from earnings their livelihood. What arrangements have been made in the districts for granting timely permission to go elsewhere? One of the restrictees in Dinajpur whose name is Sj. Bibhuti Bhusan De, applied on 6th February 1945 for permission to go to Hili, Calcutta, Santahar and Balurghat for some business purposes. He was permitted on the 21st February and this permission was communicated to him on the 22nd February.

I have received a letter only two or three days ago from Natore in 1942. This gentleman was not detained. While he was at Natore there was practically no movement there. He has been given a restriction order. His name is Sj. Jnanendra Narayan Sanyal. He applied for permission to leave Natore.

I am reading from relevant portion of a post card written by Sj. Jnanendra Narayan Sanyal on whom restriction order has been passed:

"সম্প্রতি আমার পুত্রের উপনয়ন উপলক্ষে কালীঘাটে যাবার permission District Magistrate 13th to 17th February মঞ্জুর করেন। ঐ order প্রদানকল্পে Subdivisional Officer-এর অফিসে ১৪ই বেলা ১টার আসে কিন্তু Subdivisional Officer ছাড়া ২৪শে ফেব্রুয়ারী বেলা ১০টার সময় আমার নিকট পাঠান। Subdivisional Officer-এর সঙ্গে Food Committee-র ব্যাপারে আমার বিরোধের জন্য ঐসব ব্যাপার হইতেছে। ঐ permission ১০ দিন পরে পাওয়ায় কোন উপকারে আসিল না। অনর্থক আমার কতকগুলি অর্থদণ্ড হইল।"

This is how things are done in different places.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up. You have taken a very long time.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Only one minute, more, Sir. You have seen that the Government have not been able to do anything for the amelioration of the conditions of prisoners. Above all, Sir, they are often-times arranging assaults of prisoners by their officers in jail. I say so because it is the fourth assault that took place during the regime of the present Ministry. If there was any supervision at all, if there was any control over them, if they knew that this high-handedness would not be tolerated, then they would not have done these things.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is no use elaborating that point.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: So, I suggest that the Hon'ble Minister and other members should go and visit the jail and have discussion with prisoners on the lines suggested by my resolution which has been

tabled or form a committee. If they visit the jail, and have discussions with prisoners, I think, Sir, the solution would be easy.

Mr. SPEAKER: I don't think I can allow you more time.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: And the problem would be solved. I hope that it will be done without any further delay.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the overcrowding in jail and defective hospital arrangements in jail regarding infectious diseases.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through interpellations and the grudging scanty replies to the interpellations, this House is very well aware of the sufferings and particularly the ailments to which security prisoners have been subjected. Today I want to draw the pointed attention of the Home Minister to the overcrowding in jails. I expect, and even he will not deny, that due to overcrowding and unhealthy surroundings in jails, disease, not to speak of inconvenience and want of comfort of the prisoner, is a well-known fact. In spite of this overcrowding in jails, in spite of the inconvenience which is in the knowledge of the authorities, in spite of the illness, there is no inclination on the part of the Ministry to release at least those who are detained without trial. I will at once pass on to the unsatisfactory hospital arrangements in jails. Sir, in the whole province of Bengal, at three places, there were arrangements for treating tuberculosis patients in jail. One was at Suri, the other in Alipore and the third in Comilla jail. The arrangement at Comilla no longer exists. I am speaking on the authority of my honourable friend Dr. Sharat Mukherjee who is a visitor of the Suri Central Jail that the T. B. Ward there is now full. There are 30 cases, but the X-Ray instruments and the A P. instruments over there have never been utilised. The patients said that for the last two months no doctor had ever visited that ward and my honourable friend Dr. Mukherjee found out from the bed ticket in February 9th June was the last entry of any medical attendance in that ward That is the position of the Suri Hospital. The Hon'ble Minister who during his visit on the 12th August 1943 had discussed with security prisoners of the Presidency Jail is acquainted with the unsatisfactory and most dangerous and unhealthy conditions under which existing arrangements work in the Presidency Jail. The security prisoners' kitchen is attached to the hospital and the T.B. patients in the Presidency Jail are kept in a general ward in the hospital. The incipient cases, the advanced cases and the suspected cases are all kept together Can anybody think of a better arrangement of increasing tuberculosis than this arrangement which they have made in the Presidency Jail Hospital?

Then again, the clothings of the T.B. patients and other security prisoners are all washed by the washermen in the same place. One sometimes wonders if it is the definite policy of Government by making such arrangements to see that these security prisoners who are kept there without trial get disease and their lives are made worthless. There are no separate bath rooms or latrines which can be used by these T.B. patients. These T.B. patients have to take their bath in the open. I could multiply instances. Only yesterday I have come to know that a patient Babu Sudhir Kumar Ghosh (No. 2) confined in Dum Dum Jail has been suffering from duodenal ulcer. The medical officer there, a Muslim doctor, not in any way sympathetic to this security prisoner has recommended his release or transfer elsewhere for treatment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: I want a minute or two more. Thus, there are innumerable other cases which could be multiplied. I submit that the Government has a duty and a responsibility to all prisoners and particularly to those prisoners who are kept there without trial and they must see that they are at least protected from infectious diseases like pox, tuberculosis, etc. But if that is not done Government will stand condemned before every civilised people and they will easily be guilty of the charge that their policy is to ruin and undermine the health of the prisoners in jails.

With these few words, I commend my cut motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the continued detention of a large number of security prisoners and detenus though the security position of the country has admittedly improved.

Sir, speaking of the security prisoners, my mind goes back to the old swadeshi days when Mr John Morley was the Secretary of State for India and Lord Minto was the Viceroy and Governor-General. The former had the occasion to write to the latter characterising the action which the latter proposed to take against Aswini Kumar Dutt, that saintly son of Bengal, and six others under Regulation III of 1818 as "barbarous" and having "an ugly Austrian-Russian look". Since Morley wrote and Minto acted contrarily, much water has flown down the Thames and the Hooghly. Among other things the civic consciousness of man has progressed immensely, almost beyond recognition. Man has learnt to value the right to personal liberty as a most cherished treasure. If it was a barbarous and ugly thing, as Mr. Morley wrote, to arrest and detain people without trial forty years back, it is a thousand times more barbarous and more ugly today. As a matter of fact the most effective propaganda that is being used today to rouse hatred against Nazism and Fascism is that these two "isms" thrive by concentration camp methods. Now, Sir, need I use many words to show that if there have been or there are concentration camps in Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, there is no dearth of concentration camps in British India, especially in Bengal The Hon'ble the Home Member of the Government of India may fret and fume at Mrs. Bijoylakshmi Pandit for making that very inconvenient disclosure in the United States of America, but Alipore, Buxa, Dacca, Dinajpur, Dum Dum, Midnapore, Rajshahi and other jails of Bengal offer the irrefutable logic of facts to world opinion When you have detained a large number of people, men and women, without trial for an indefinite period and have succeeded in having some of them dead and others dying of fell diseases, when you have succeeded in subjecting them to indescribable hardships and sufferings, when you have succeeded in exposing them to merciless *lathi* charges by jail people, why fight shy of the term "concentration camp"? As a matter of fact your action in this respect is all the more reprehensible because, while Hitler and Mussolini in their mad fury for totalitarian dictatorship have applied the concentration camp methods against their avowed and open opponents, you have applied the concentration camp methods in India against people who are avowedly anti-Fascist and who wanted to fight for their freedom side by side with you. The only conceivable offence these people have committed is that they refused to take up arms against the enemy because they could not being themselves in chains in the larger sense of India being in bondage. If you have an iota of evidence to the contrary, why not put these people on their trial, failing which they must be set at liberty forthwith. The so-called "periodic review" of their cases by people known as "security advisers" on the basis of vague, stereotyped and imaginary charges which has been so often

paraded on the floor of the House is a mere eye-wash. It is sickening to be told, as we have been told recently, that these people would not be kept in detention a moment longer than is necessary for security reasons. We fail to understand the so-called security reasons——(at this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech). We, plain people, understand that with the virtual collapse of Hitlerite Germany and the receding away of the Japanese menace from the Indian frontiers, the security position of India, and of this province in particular, has considerably improved. I therefore think there is no justification at the present moment for keeping in detention a large number of people, men and women, for security reasons. I demand that these patriotic countrymen and countrywomen of ours must immediately be set free. We want to see them free. In particular, we want that our great leader Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose, and Sjs. Pratul Chandra Ganguly, Jnanendra Chandra Majumdar, Satya Priya Banerjea, Niharendu Dutta Majumdar, Khagendra Nath Das Gupta, Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, Sjs. Sibnath Banerjee and Nikunja Behary Maiti and Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi must immediately be set free to take part in the proceedings of this House in this session as free men. I make this demand on the floor of the House on behalf of the people of Bengal. I know, it will be said that some of those prisoners are not the concern of the Bengal Government. But I would ask the Government of Bengal to take up their cases with the Government of India as their own. Will Sir Nazimuddin take courage in both hands and set all these people free? We wait for a reply.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr Speaker Sir, I do not like to move any cut motion but I want to put one question to the Hon'ble Minister. At least we expect that a full statement should be made with reference to a member of this House who is detained without trial and who has been suffering from a serious disease The other day in reply to a question put the Government said that Mr Khagendra Nath Das Gupta who has been suffering from fever has been transferred to Rajshahi Sadar Hospital for treatment and that his wife has been permitted to interview him. He has been suffering from enteric fever, and I have been told yesterday by a person who has come from Jalpaiguri and is a friend of Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta that he has not been transferred to the Rajshahi Sadar Hospital for treatment: his wife went to Rajshahi to interview him but came back disappointed That is really regrettable: a member of this House has been suffering from fever in detention and it has been said that he has been transferred to the Rajshahi Sadar Hospital for treatment which is not a fact Sir, we want to know how Sj. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta has been faring now I put the question regarding his health only the day before yesterday. I am anxious to know about him.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I take this opportunity of acquainting this House with the latest position I have been able to ascertain regarding the health of Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta. Mr. Das Gupta's wife was here yesterday and one of his relations saw me yesterday morning. The report is, his enteric fever has been on the subsidence and he is now having a slight temperature and is on the way to recovery. The jail authorities have removed him to the jail hospital but they were waiting to see if the symptoms were getting worse to remove him to the Sadar Hospital. But as he is showing signs of recovery, they did not remove him to the Sadar Hospital. His relations also, in view of the delicate condition of the health in which Mr. Das Gupta was, did not think it advisable to make any change in the place of his treatment. So my Deputy Leader Mr. Datta might be relieved to know that it was known to the relations of Mr. Das Gupta that he was not going to be removed to the Sadar Hospital at Rajshahi. Although my friend the Parliamentary Secretary did mention that he was going to be removed this was not

actually given effect to. With regard to the interview with his wife of which an assurance was given, the jail authorities permitted four days interview when the condition of the patient was alarming but thereafter they stopped the interviews and necessarily Mrs. Das Gupta had left Rajshahi and come away. It was not possible for her to stay on at Rajshahi indefinitely in the hope of getting interviews as and when the rules permit. The present condition of health of Mr. Das Gupta is causing some anxiety because he is very, very weak and if special arrangements could be made either to take him to a sanatorium or to a place where improvement of health could be effected quickly, like Kurseong Jail or even Jalpaiguri Jail, where his wife might go and attend and better dietary arrangements could be made from the family, that would be a matter of some relief. But, Sir, we would not be satisfied unless he is set at liberty forthwith in view particularly of the present state of his health.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: On a point of personal explanation. Dr. Sanyal has explained the position. The other day I merely stated that——

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please sit down? I will allow you afterwards.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On a point of order. Why should he take up the time of the Opposition?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr Datta has made certain allegation and I want to rise on personal explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Dr. Sanyal has explained the position and I need not go into it. I merely want to state that in reply to a question regarding Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta I merely stated that the orders were being issued for transferring the security prisoner to the Rajshahi Sadar Hospital and for permitting his wife to interview him daily in the hospital. That was only what I stated. I did not state that he had already been transferred to the Sadar Hospital and the orders were issued for permitting his wife to interview him.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Why that order has not been given effect to?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Because, as Dr. Sanyal has explained, he has improved.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I have listened carefully to the criticisms that have been levelled against the jail administration. One thing I would like to point out in this connection and that is that apart from individual cases of grievances referred to by Mr. Kundu in the letters that he read out, as far as the grievances of the security prisoners are concerned they are very few. All the major grievances have been removed and the only one that is outstanding at the present time and which, I admit, has been there for some time now, is about the study allowance. If the honourable members will go through the discussion of last year and the year previous, they will find that apart from that all those complaints which the security prisoners were making at that time have been dealt with and disposed of fairly satisfactorily.

As far as criticisms against the administration of jails with reference to division III prisoners are concerned, I admit, Sir, there is room for a great deal of improvement. There can be no difference of opinion about that. For example, there is no doubt that at the present time there is a great deal of congestion in jails. We have tried our best to find ways and means as to how to reduce this congestion (Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: By

release). We have tried that as far as ordinary convicts are concerned by giving premature release. We have also tried to construct jails and as a matter of fact one of the jails which we were trying to get ready was unfortunately taken over by the military authorities and therefore we were prevented from relieving the congestion. We have also appointed a large number of lawyer Magistrates for speedy disposal of cases so that the cases of those prisoners who had to be kept for a long time as under-trial prisoners could be disposed of, and there is a marked improvement in the disposal of the cases of under-trial prisoners. But unfortunately during the war it is not possible to make those improvements which will remove some of the complaints that have been placed before this House today.

I have already pointed out that as far as congestion is concerned, apart from releasing, which the Leader of the Congress has suggested, there is another method by which it can be removed, namely by increasing accommodation, but unfortunately owing to scarcity of building materials and other difficulties it is not possible to go for that.

Then there is another point. One of the major grievances which is a long-standing one is about mosquito curtains for Division III prisoners. As far as Divisions I and II prisoners are concerned, they get mosquito curtains. As far as Division III prisoners are concerned, those who are suffering from malaria get mosquito curtains. (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: They are getting it for the last seven years!) They had not had it, as Mr. Rai Chaudhuri says, for the last seven years and it is very difficult during war time to introduce this change. I am quite prepared to undertake to see that Division III prisoners in hospitals are provided with mosquito curtains. If that has not been provided, it is one of the things that should be done immediately and I will try and see that this is done at an early date. (Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Not under-trial prisoners?) I am talking of Division III prisoners in hospitals because Mr. Mal mentioned that. I am prepared to undertake to see that they are given mosquito curtains. (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Prisoners in hospital are already given.) Mr. Mal says they are not. I say, if they are not given I will see that they are given.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: The Minister ought to know that there is a rule that in hospitals prisoners are given mosquito curtains but Midnapore is a departure as Midnapore is outside the administrative machinery.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: My proposition is if they are not getting it they will get it; if they are getting it, the matter ends there.

As regards other complaints about hospital arrangements, I have made a careful note of them and I will try Insh-Allah to see that as far as possible those improvements are made in the hospitals. There is one thing which should be remembered and that is that the general standard of health in the jails of Bengal is very good. In spite of all the complaints that have been put forward today it cannot be denied that the general health of prisoners of whichever class you like is above the average and they compare favourably to any prisoners in any jail in India. (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Old stock argument!) Even if it is old stock, it is true and it is effective. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Old wine!)

As regards prisoners, particularly security prisoners who are ailing and suffering from various complaints, they had these complaints before they were admitted into jail, and there is hardly any case where on account of infection any prisoner contracted a disease in the jail itself (cries of "question, question" from the Opposition benches). Most of the cases of T.B. are of persons who were suffering in some form or other before they were arrested (cries of "question", question" from the Opposition benches). (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: How do you know that?)

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: You did not finish about study and family allowances.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As regards study allowance, nothing has been settled as yet and if you report any laches on my part I admit that. As far as personal allowance is concerned, it is not an outstanding question. As far as this question is concerned, we have never accepted the principle of granting personal allowance except in the case of those detained under Regulation III, because under the Regulation itself we are compelled to provide personal allowance and we have provided it. But the rule that we have followed this time is that instead of giving them personal allowance we try to meet all their needs. Anything that they require and all that is necessary for them we are trying to provide. There is a difference between this time and last time, e.g., in case of those who were detained under the Criminal Law Amendment Act where we have made a definite provision for personal allowance. This was due to the fact that we had to fall in line with the general policy followed in the rest of the provinces and also by the Central Government. I personally feel, Sir, that in view of the past practice in Bengal it would be advisable to have personal allowances, but in view of the fact that all the other provinces are of opinion that there should be one uniform procedure Bengal had to fall in line with them.

As far as the question of allowances of detenus is concerned, I may state here that as far as I am aware and I have gone through a very very large number of cases—practically in every case there may be one or two exceptions here and there according to the policy of the Government of India we have granted allowances. In a number of cases where according to our policy a person is not entitled to any allowance we have granted him allowance on compassionate grounds when we are satisfied that his family was in distress. Wherever possible, we have increased the allowances. Whenever a case has been brought to our notice and we have felt that here was a case where some increase was necessary, we have sanctioned an increase. (A voice: And also decreased allowance!) Sir, decrease of allowance is exceptionally rare; I have not come across any such case. Where there has been decrease, there must be good reason for it. I cannot state the reason now, but I am certain there was good reason for the decrease. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: You will discover and find out some reason hereafter.) There must be very few cases of this nature, namely, cases where a person has been detained for more than a year or two and is entitled to a family allowance but no allowance has been given. It must be due to the fact that for some reason or other somebody has not been supplied with the information asked for, but as a rule most of the cases that we know of have been dealt with and whenever we allow any allowance, even if it is a year after or sometimes after 18 months, it is from the date of his arrest as a rule that he is given allowance and a person gets a lump sum at a time. I can assure the members of this House that both Mr. Bapat and myself try always to stretch a point in his favour keeping in view the policy that has been laid down. Members on the other side may quarrel about the policy itself, but that policy has been decided upon after due consideration. It has been followed for the last four years, but in administering that policy I can assure you that every effort is made (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We question the wisdom of the policy) in favour of the security prisoner and in all genuine cases of hardship we try to stretch a point and give relief wherever possible. There may be differences of opinion between the members on the other side of the House and those on this side as to what is an adequate allowance. But I maintain that the standard of allowance that we are giving at the present time is certainly above the average of poor middle class and will be according to the earning of an average middle class family in Bengal (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Most certainly not. Nowadays every family earns a

lot.) and in most cases equal to the amount of the income before the arrest of the security prisoner. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: That is unfortunate. That is very low.) Whatever the man was earning before he was arrested, that amount of money we generally as a rule provide for the family. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: They maintain a high standard and you accept only a low standard. Why do you pay less than the pre-arrest income?) Because he may have other means of income. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: He has been robbed of other means of income.) We generally give up to the amount that the man was earning before he was arrested on the principle that the family has been deprived of his income and Government makes up that money by a family allowance. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: You deprive a man of Rs. 500 and you give him only Rs. 50). (Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: I know of a Head Master who was earning Rs. 100 and you gave him only Rs. 30 and he has a number of members to maintain.) If there is a case in which a man who was earning Rs. 100 previously got only Rs. 30 and he had no other source of income—if that is brought to my notice I will personally see that the allowance is increased. (Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: I gave notice of a case signed by all the leaders to Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali but you did not care to reply to it.)

As regards hospitals, Sir, I have made it a point to look into all cases of complaints about hospitals and try to improve the condition of the hospitals as far as possible.

As far as treatment is concerned, we try to give the best possible treatment to those who are ill and some of them are treated here and get the benefit of the best medical experts that are available in Calcutta. We try as far as possible to send these people to the Medical College Hospital, but it is not always possible to provide accommodation. Sometimes a Special Cabin is necessary, sometimes special arrangement has to be made for a prisoner about to undergo a major operation; it is not always possible to provide accommodation in such cases. I am personally looking into these things and I am intervening in one case of this kind. I have to admit, Sir, that improvement is not always possible during the war. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: What about release of security prisoners and especially of members of this House who are in detention?) (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Nothing is done. You keep mum.)

The motion of Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal that the demand of Rs.1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about policy of jail administration having special reference to allowance given to convict overseers, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about policy of jail administration having special reference to library, clothings, latrines, water arrangement for convicts and prisoners, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about policy of jail administration having reference to unhealthy system in the cell arrangement of the jails, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about policy of jail administration having special reference to supply of mosquito-curtains to the convicts in the jails, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be

reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about policy of jail administration having reference to insanitary condition and insufficient supply of medicine and food to patients and the beds supplied to the class III convict or undertrial patients, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about failure of the Government to look into the grievances and amenities of the political, security and other prisoners, lack and loss of control over the jail administration, lack of supervision and failure of the Government to release political and security prisoners, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. J. C. Gupta that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the overcrowding in jail and defective hospital arrangements in jail regarding infectious diseases, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 1,10,70,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the continued detention of a large number of security prisoners and detenus though the security position of the country has admittedly improved, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin that a sum of Rs. 1,10,70,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements", was then put and agreed to.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After Adjournment.)

57—Miscellaneous.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 62,56,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous".

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: আমার এই মোশনটা যেটা জেল সম্বন্ধে ছিল সেটা দেরে নিতে অনেক বিলম্ব হল তার জন্য অনেক বন্ধু হাসবেন। আমি মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করি এই সময় table যে দেওয়া হয় তা যেন একদিন আগে দেওয়া হয়। আজকে ৪টার সময় মোশন আসবে আর ৫টার সময় এখানে মোশনের table দেওয়া হবে। কাজেই কোন্ মোশন কার নামে হবে তা পূর্বে জানবার উপায় থাকে না এবং বাড়ী থেকে prepared হয়ে আসা অসম্ভব হয়। এই মোশন move করার সঙ্গে আমার অনেক কথা বলার ছিল, কিন্তু সে কাগজপত্র বাড়ীতে আছে। সময় না পাওয়ায় সেসব আনতে পারি নাই। আমি যে মোশনটা move করছি সেটা বন্ধুবর মৌলানা মনিরুজ্জমান ইসলামাবাদীকে জেলে আটক রাখা সম্বন্ধে।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনি motionটা move করুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 62,56,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the difficulties of the families and dependents of the security prisoners for want of grant of any family allowance or sufficient allowance of (1) Lokman Khan Shirwany, (2) Hirendra Kumar De, (3) Narendra Bhawmik, (4) Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, (5) Syed Sultan Ahmad, (6) Mr. Hamidali Alig, (7) Jalal Ahmad and (8) brother-in-law of Maulana Islamabadi, all of Chittagong.

আমি প্রথমে ইসলামাবাদী সাহেবের কথা এই হাউসে উপস্থিত করিতেছি। ইসলামাবাদী সাহেব যখন political ব্যাপারে লিপ্ত ছিলেন তখন তাঁকে ধরা হয় নাই। বর্তমানে ২ বৎসর যাবৎ তিনি রোগশয্যায় শায়িত, এই হাউসে গত বাজেট সেসনে উপস্থিত হইতে পারেন নাই। একদিন কি দুই দিন অতিকষ্টে রোগশয্যা হইতে

আনা হইয়াছিল। এ অবস্থায় কেন যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাঁকে গ্রেপ্তার করেছেন সে বিষয়ে আমাদের জানিবার বা বলিবার কোন অধিকার নাই। তিনি যদি দোষী হন তাঁহাকে গুলি করা হউক, আপত্তি নাই। কিন্তু বাংলা দেশের একটা পরিবারের কর্ত্তা, যে সেই পরিবারের অর্থের সংস্থান করে, তাকে India Government হউক বা Bengal Government হউক ধরিয়া রাখিলে পর তাহার পরিবারকে পালন করা অন্ততঃ বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে সম্পূর্ণ কর্ত্তব্য। তাঁহাকে যখন গ্রেপ্তার করা হয় তখন তাঁহার পকেটে টাকা ছিল না, bank balance মাত্র ১৩৩৲ টাকা ছিল। তাঁর বাড়ীতে ৪॥ ছিল। এই টাকা খরচ হবার পর একদিন আমার বাড়ীতে এসে তাঁরা কান্নাকাটি করেন। আমি স্বয়ং District Magistrateএর কাছে উপস্থিত হই কিন্তু তিনি কিছু করেন নাই। তাঁর বেতনও পাওয়া যায় নাই। বেতনের বিলের form দেওয়া হয় নাই। সেক্রেটারী সাহেবকে লেখা হয়েছিল, ফর্ম্ম তিনি দেন নাই। আমার বাড়ীতে অতিরিক্ত ফর্ম্ম ছিল, সেটা তাঁর wifeকে দেই, তিনি বোধ হয় সেটা লাহোরে সহি করিবার জন্য পাঠাইয়াছেন।

গত বাজেট সেসনে ইসলামাবাদী সাহেব ১০,০০০ টাকা ঘুষ লইয়াছেন বলিয়া মাননীয় মন্ত্রী সুরাবর্দ্দী সাহেব মহম্মদ আলী পার্কের প্রকাশ্য সভায় বক্তৃতা দিয়েছিলেন। আর মুসলমান-কেন্দ্রের প্রতিনিধি হইয়া ঘুষ লইয়া কংগ্রেসের দলে যোগ দিয়াছেন এই কথা পটিয়ায় গিয়া এবং তাঁর নাম উচ্চারণ করিয়া বলিয়াছিলেন। যদি তিনি ১০ হাজার টাকা ঘুষ লইয়া থাকেন তবে তিনি জেলে গিয়া সে টাকা ওয়ার্ডারকে দেন নাই, ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটকেও দেন নাই এটা নিশ্চিত। সে টাকা গেল কোথায়? নিশ্চয়ই সুরাবর্দ্দী সাহেব লইয়াছেন, তিনিই ঘুষ খাইয়াছেন (cries from Government benches: মিথ্যা কথা)। মিথ্যাবাদী, মিথ্যুক কে তা জানি।

আমি এই সঙ্গে বলিতে চাই হামিদালী আলিগকে গ্রেপ্তার করা হইয়াছে, কিন্তু কেন হইয়াছে তা জানি না। আমি জানি আলিগ গভর্ণমেণ্ট কণ্ট্রাক্টর। কণ্ট্রাক্টরকে কেন গ্রেপ্তার করা হইল? সে যদি প্রকৃত রাজদ্রোহী হয় তাকে কণ্ট্রাক্টরী দেওয়া হইয়াছিল কেন? গভর্ণমেণ্ট যাকে কণ্ট্রাক্টরী দিয়া থাকে তাকে নজরবন্দী হিসাবে গ্রেপ্তার করার কারণ বুঝিতে পারি না। গভর্ণমেণ্ট C I D ডিপার্টমেণ্টের রিপোর্ট হইতে কাজ করেন। যেসব কণ্ট্রাক্টরেরা টাকা দিবে না তাহাদের বিরুদ্ধে রিপোর্ট যাইবে যে জাপানের সঙ্গে লিপ্ত আছে, ইত্যাদি। এই সব দুর্নীতির কথা অনেকেই জানে। ইণ্ডিয়া গভর্ণমেণ্ট হউন বা বেঙ্গল গভর্ণমেণ্ট হউন সত্য কথাই তাঁহাদের বলা উচিত। কোন মিথ্যা বলিতে কি বুকে বাজে না? আমাদের ধারণা যে সব কণ্ট্রাক্টর টাকা দেয়নি তাদের বিরুদ্ধে রিপোর্ট গিয়াছে।

তার পর সৈয়দ সুলতান আহমদের মত লোককে গ্রেপ্তার করিয়াছে। ইসলামাবাদী সাহেবের বিরুদ্ধে সুরাবর্দ্দী সাহেব যে বক্তৃতা দিয়াছিলেন সেটার তিনি protest করিয়াছিলেন। সুলতান আহমদ সাহেব ছিলেন National War Frontএর organiser তাকে কেন গ্রেপ্তার করা হয়? সে যদি political ব্যাপারে লিপ্ত থাকে তাহলে তাকে National War Frontএর organiser করার কারণ বুঝিতে পারি না।

তার পর লোকমান শেরওয়ানী সাহেব এই হাউসের ২।৩ জন মেম্বরকে এক পাল্লায় আর লোকমানকে আর এক পাল্লায় রাখিয়া ওজন করিলে তাঁর ওজনই বেশী হইবে। কিন্তু খাদ্য দিবার সময় সে পরিমাণ দেওয়া হইতেছে না। তাঁহার শরীর অনুপাতে খাদ্য দিতেছে না। তাঁর চিঠি আমার কাছে প্রেরণ করিয়াছেন। সে যদি মিথ্যা লিখিত তাহলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাহা censor করিতেন, আমার নিকট পাঠাইতেন না। সেই চিঠিতে ছিল আমি অনাহারে অর্দ্ধাহারে মারা যাইতেছি। আপনি স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীনকে বলিয়া আমার খাওয়ার কোন সুব্যবস্থা করুন। আমি স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীনকে চিঠিখানি দেখাইয়াছিলাম। তিনি বলিলেন, আপনি রাজভক্ত লোক, আপনি তাদের বিষয়ে আন্দোলন করেন কেন? (Cries of shame, shame) রাজভক্ত বলিয়া আমাকে খাঁ বাহাদুর title দিয়াছে। যুদ্ধের সময় অনেক লোক recruit করিয়াছি বলিয়া আমাকে honour দিয়াছে। নইলে আমাকেও গ্রেপ্তার করিত। আমি বলি আমি ত একজন মানুষ। বাংলা দেশের মানুষ একজন অনাহারে মারা যাইবে আর আমরা চুপ করিয়া বসিয়া থাকিব? গভর্ণমেণ্ট অনুভব করিবেন না, মন্ত্রিসভাও করিবেন না, ইহা নিতান্ত লজ্জাকর।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আরও বলিতেছি হীরেন্দ্র প্রভৃতি ৪ জনকে গ্রেপ্তার করা হইয়াছে, কিন্তু কাহাকেও কোন allowance দেওয়া হইতেছে না। নরেন্দ্র ভৌমিকের অনেক চিঠি আমার কাছে আছে। সে মিথ্যা হইলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাহা গোপন করিতেন। চিঠির কথা সত্য হইলে তাহার প্রতীকার করেন না কেন তার কারণ বুঝি না। আমি মহম্মদ আলী সাহেবকে অনুরোধ করি—স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীনের সময় হইবে না—তিনি এই কয়েকটি লোকের পরিবারকে খাওয়াইবার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 62,56,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the small and insufficient grant of allowances to the State and political security prisoners.

Sir, after the elaborate speech of my friend Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu detailing the grievances of the State and security prisoners in connection with his motion under the head "Jails" my only apology for standing up to speak at this late hour is that I am going to speak on the relevant head. Head "57A" relates to expenditure on account of State prisoners and detenus. In the Explanatory Memorandum attached to that head it is observed that so far as the revised estimate for 1944-45 is concerned, the increase under the head is "due to more liberal rates of family allowance for security prisoners and other State prisoners."

Sir, I cannot understand how can the Hon'ble Minister resort to this cruel mockery in explaining the revised figure. Sir, it will be seen that the actual expenditure in 1943-44 on account of State prisoners and detenus was Rs. 3,79,000 as shown in the Red Book. In the detailed estimates the figure is given as Rs 3,90,869 without deducting the recoveries.

However, Sir, it will be seen that the expenditure on account of State prisoners and detenus amounted actually to near about Rs. 4 crores in 1943-44 and therefore the budget estimate for 1944-45 had to be revised in the lights of actual experience. The budget estimate which was incorrectly and carelessly made even in the middle of 1944-45 had to be revised up to Rs 4,25,000 Now, Sir, in pursuance of the alleged liberal policy that the present Ministry is following with regard to the grant of allowances to security prisoners, the estimate for 1945-46 comes up to Rs. 4,24,000, that is Rs 1,000 less Probably it is in response to the insistent demand for the release or the revision of allowances of the security prisoners that has been made and is being made from this side of the House that Rs. 1,000 less has been estimated for in the coming year. Is there any justification at all for budgeting less than what was budgeted this year? (Mr. A M Abdul Hamid: More releases.) That is a lie having regard to the present figures of State and security prisoners. An ill-informed critic from the other side says there have been more releases. That is not a fact, that is untrue I repeat. On November 3, 1944, from New Delhi the following message appeared in the press. The Home Member, Government of India, in course of his reply to questions in the Central Assembly on Friday disclosed that 5,325 prisoners were in detention under Ordinance No 111 of 1944. The Home Member also stated that persons detained at one time or another in connection with the Congress movement totalled between 17,000 and 18,000 of whom 2,128 were still in detention on September 1, 1944 and he gave the figures provincewise. The figures show that out of 2,128 detenus, the total for the whole of India, there were on September 1, 1944, as many as 1,281 detenus in Bengal alone.

Now, Sir, in reply to a question recently put by me, the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin stated that the figure on the 7th November, 1944, was 1,286 and, if I remember aright, in reply to a question put by my friend Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta he gave the present figure as near about 1,300. So, it will be an untrue statement to say that there are less security prisoners or detenus now in Bengal to provide for than in the last year. In spite of that fact and in spite of higher prices of commodities now, Rs. 1,000 less has been budgeted for the next year probably, as I said, out of due regard—profuse regard—for the criticism of the Opposition and overflowing sympathy for the detenus professed by Sir Nazimuddin.

Now, let us turn to the question of family allowance in particular. Sir Nazimuddin a few minutes ago said that family allowances are being

given to the security prisoners in accordance with the standard of expenditure of middle class families in Bengal. That again, Sir, is an obviously wrong statement—at least a statement which is far from facts. A question was put by Mr. Sibnath Banerjee regarding the grant of adequate family allowance to certain security prisoners and in the question 8 security prisoners were mentioned. In replying to the question in the current session Sir Nazimuddin has observed "Security prisoners Babus Rajendra Nath Roy, Sadhan Roy and Satyendra Chakravarty, mentioned in items (*i*), (*ii*) and (*vi*), respectively, were not granted any family allowance." This gives the lie direct to the statement that was made a few minutes ago that almost all the security prisoners have been given family allowances. Our information is that about 50 per cent., of the prisoners, have not been granted any family allowance at all. And what is the "liberal policy" of paying family allowances? It will appear from the next part of the answer to the said question "Security prisoners Babus Arun Roy, Mukunda Bhanja and Krishna Chandra Chatterjee mentioned in items (*iii*), (*vii*) and (*viii*) have been granted family allowance of Rs. 30, Rs. 20 and Rs. 15, respectively". This, Sir, is the usual measure of family allowance that has been granted by the present Ministry in pursuance of their so-called liberal policy and this according to Sir Nazimuddin is the standard of expenditure in a Bengal middle class family and Sir Nazimuddin, after all, is an honourable man who is supposed not to give misleading answers.

Then, Sir, whenever a question is put with regard to family allowance of a particular security prisoner, if the security prisoner happened to have no definite or fixed income at the time of his arrest, it is plainly said "well, that person had no fixed income and therefore nothing could be done for him or for increasing his family allowance". If he had any income whatsoever, then some family allowance is given and it is pretended "we do not know what was his income at the time of his arrest" Recently I put a question with regard to the family allowance granted to State prisoner Srijut Netai Chandra Jana His is a very tragic case He was a prisoner before but he was released on medical ground as a tuberculosis patient. Some time after his release he was arrested again and he is now a State prisoner. I put this question with reference to his family allowance:

Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) when and after what consideration the family allowance of security prisoner Srijut Netai Chandra Jana was fixed;

(*b*) whether any representations were received from him regarding the inadequacy of that allowance,

(*c*) whether he is aware that Srijut Jana's father had to sell his house at Baidyabati to maintain the family; and

(*d*) whether he is considering the desirability of increasing the allowance granted to Srijut Jana's family in consideration of their continued hardship?

The reply was as follows:—

(*a*) The honourable member perhaps means State prisoner Babu Netai Chandra Jana. As he had no fixed income before his detention, the family allowance in his case was fixed at Rs. 50 per month on the needs of the family in November, 1943; and it is being paid with effect from the 27th May, 1943. Besides this he has also been granted a personal allowance of Rs. 30 per month.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) I have no information.

(*d*) No.

The question and the answer were published in the press and attracted the notice of the State prisoner concerned and he wrote to me to say that it was not a fact that the Hon'ble Minister had no information. In fact, in the representation made to the Minister for revision of his family allowance it was mentioned that Sj. Jana's father had to sell his house on account of the inadequate allowance granted. Let the Government say whether it is true or not that the fact was mentioned in the representation they received.

Next, Sir, it is said as that he had no fixed income he is given only Rs. 50. The fact is that Sj. Jana was earning from order supply contract business much more than Rs. 50 before his arrest. Because a contractor has no definite income, the plea has been taken that he had no fixed income, and, therefore, Rs. 50 had been fixed. The suggestion is that if Srijut Jana had a higher fixed income, he would have got a higher allowance. That however is not a fact. I will quote instances where persons having larger fixed income before their arrest are being paid much less family allowance or no allowance at all. Take, for instance, the case of Sj. Nani Mazumdar, son of our esteemed colleague Mrs Hemaprova Mazumdar. He was earning Rs. 150 before his arrest and he has been given no family allowance at all. Take the case of Professor Prafulla Chakrabartty of B. M. College, Barisal. He was earning Rs. 200 - Government have admitted that before his arrest, and he is paid much less, viz., Rs. 50. So, Sir, it is only a plea and nothing else, and it is to make an untrue suggestion to say that if Government has granted inadequate family allowance it is because they are not aware that those persons had larger fixed income. Not to speak of persons who have been granted the pittance of 15 20 or 30 rupees as family allowance in the case of persons who had larger fixed income Government are starving their families too by paying much less allowance or no allowance at all In the face of such facts how can the Hon'ble Minister stand up and say that Government are following a liberal policy in this respect, I cannot for myself understand, but after all these Ministers have to be taken as honourable men and that is our misfortune

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 62,56,000 for expenditure under the head "57 - Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the work of Post-War Reconstruction Committee

Sir, this Committee was brought into existence in the latter part of 1943 and it met thrice during this long period in November 1943, in January and June, 1944 It again met after about eight months only a few days back in February this year after the Budget discussion started and possibly in consequence of the strong criticism of the leader of the European Party during the budget debate

Sir, the composition of the main Committee itself deserves some notice. It includes seven Ministers including the Finance Ministers of the Nizam and Bhopal Governments, four Hindus who happen to be experts in various subjects, one European, and the remaining five are Muslims who happen to be loyal camp followers of the Muslim League I do not know on what ground Bhopal and Hyderabad were singled out for representation on this Committee. Is it because these two States have been running Pakisthani administration in their territories and have kept the overwhelming majority of their Hindu population in thraldom—depriving them of their just rights and interests? Sir, are the Bhopal and Hyderabad administrations serving as the model to the League Ministry in Bengal, on which they intend to fashion and reconstruct the Province in the post-war period? Sir, I don't see any other possible explanation for their inclusion in our Post-War Reconstruction Committee, since they are not known to have any specialized knowledge about the work which the Committee has to do. Sir, I refer to this, because I find that even in such a

matter, the Ministry could not rise above communalism. Post-war reconstruction is a thing of vital importance for desolate and denuded Bengal, and people have every right to expect that only men of wide experience in different branches of public life and public administration should have been taken on this Committee.

Sir, it was one of the recommendations of this Committee that Nawab Ali Nawab Jung, an Engineer of Hyderabad should be asked to survey the possibility of hydro-electric and irrigation schemes in Bengal. I do not know whether this recommendation has been given effect to and whether this officer has started work. Sir, I would like to know what are the special qualifications for which he was marked out for this singular choice.

Sir, about the work of this Committee, I must say it has been marked throughout by indecision, lack of earnestness and lack of practical foresight. Sir, seven sub-committees have been appointed—some of the committees having as many as twenty-eight members. This has been done apparently to accommodate the claims of the M.L.As. who support the Ministry. Sir, for a long time these sub-committees remained without any Secretary or with only departmental Secretaries whose heavy work in their own department prevented them from undertaking this new additional burden with proper earnestness. The result was that these sub-committees could not function properly. As the main Post-War Reconstruction Committee depended entirely on the labours of these different sub-committees, the whole work was held up for a long time. Many of the sub-committees did not even meet for a long time. Even up till now, the Labour and Social Security Sub-Committee have not met Mr. Hughes, the Labour Commissioner, who has been made the Secretary of the sub-committee has been saddled with so many multifarious duties that he has hardly any time. I wonder, Sir, why a special wholetime officer was not appointed as the Secretary of this sub-committee and why this important branch of post-war activity is being treated with such deplorable apathy.

Sir, even now the Post-War Employment Sub-Committee has not got a Secretary. I presume this sub-committee also has not met and done any work. Besides, there are some sub-committees in which the departmental officers are still continuing as Secretaries, in addition to their departmental work. Sir, the failure of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee to produce any tangible result even in the course of a year has, in my judgment, been due to the failure to appoint full-time Secretary to each of the sub-committees Sir, when Sir J. C. Ghosh suggested in the very second meeting of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee in January 1944 that each of the sub-committees should have a wholetime Secretary, the Hon'ble Mr. Shahabuddin, the Chairman of the meeting, shelved the question by pointing out that he was going to have the services of a wholetime Secretary and two Assistant Secretaries to the main Committee and he thought that that would suffice for the time being.

Sir, because of this folly, the Government of Bengal could not be yet ready with their plans. Sir, it was in April, 1944, that the Government of India informed the Bengal Government that the report of the Reconstruction Committee should be submitted by July 1944 at the latest. But the Bengal Government had no plans to submit. As a matter of fact, by July 1944, the various sub-committees could not even start functioning properly, not to speak of producing any report. Sir, various other Provincial Governments have already submitted their proposals to the India Government but Bengal still lags behind, because of the bungling by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Industries, Commerce and Labour, who is the Chairman of the Committee and who is running this show according to the measure of his own incompetence and worthlessness. Sir, it is all very well to say that they have been very busy with so many things, Sir, my

charge is that this work was not taken up in a businesslike manner during the first six months by the Hon'ble Minister and was hopelessly neglected in an irresponsible manner.

Sir, the Government has already made an announcement that the post-war reconstruction would entail an expenditure of Rs. 150 crores, of which half would be contributed by the India Government and the other half is to be raised by taxation and internal loan. I desire to know how this figure of Rs. 150 crores was come about in the absence of formulation of any concrete proposal by the committee. I would also like to know, Sir, if the Government of India have really given any indication about the sum of money they propose to allot to Bengal for this work. Sir, the whole announcement appears to be a bogus affair, deliberately intended to mislead public opinion of the province. How can you say that you are going to spend Rs. 150 crores when you have no clear idea of the definite schemes and of the expense they would actually involve? This is all talking in the air—presumably meant to present a rosy picture of the Bengal that this Ministry is going to rebuild. Sir, such irresponsible talk does not deceive us, nor can it hide the gross incompetency of the Hon'ble Minister who is dealing with this subject.

Mr. MANMATHA NATH ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 62,56,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the desirability to provide for the year 1944-45 Government contribution towards an extension of dearness allowance to the low-paid employees of the local bodies as in 1945-46

I have brought forward this cut motion not by way of opposition but in the best interests of an useful and important class of persons, I mean, the low-paid employees of district boards and municipalities. The present budget for the next financial year makes a provision of Rs. 25 lakhs for dearness allowance to the low-paid employees of local bodies. My complaint is that no such provision has been made for them for the current financial year although the employees of the Government have enjoyed this allowance for the current year

A differential treatment has been made for the current year in favour of only the Sanitary Departments of local bodies and the other departments have not come into the picture at all The Government has recognised this legitimate claim for the current year in the case of its staff and it is difficult to see how and why the Government has denied it or the staff of the local bodies who have to discharge duties as heavy, as arduous and as responsible as the former The resources of local bodies are very limited and they cannot be expected to meet the whole cost and the allowances are a legitimate charge on the provincial revenues and specially on the subvention made by the Government of India to the Provincial Government to the extent of Rs. 3 crores in 1943-44 and Rs. 7 crores in 1944-45.

I may mention the case of the Howrah district board who had asked for a subvention from the Government in respect of this allowance for the current year The board had paid this allowance to its low-paid staff, and has not yet finally heard from the Government.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED BOKAINAGARI: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমি আমার বন্ধু খাঃ বাহাদুর হাজি মোঃ আবেদ চৌধুরী যে প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিয়াছেন সেই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করিয়া আমি কিছু বলিতে চাই। প্রথমেই আমার একটী ভুনিপোকার গল্প মনে পড়ে :

Mr. SPEAKER: ঐ গল্প শুনবার সময় নেই।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED BOKAINAGARI:

জুনিপোকার চন্দ্রকে নিন্দে,
ইঁদুরে নিন্দে করী,
শামুকে সাগর নিন্দে,
এই যে লজ্জায় মরি।

আজকে মজিসভার ভিতর, বিশেষ করে সরবরাহ-সচিব মহোদয়ের কার্য্য-কলাপ সম্বন্ধে আমি এই বলতে চাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: তার সঙ্গে কোন সম্পর্ক নেই। এই সব আপনি বাজে কথা বলেন কেন। মিথ্যে মিথ্যে কেন সময় নষ্ট করছেন। আপনি বসুন।

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I rise to reply to the cut motion moved by Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury who delivered his speech from the Congress Bench today. I find he is not present in the House to hear the Government point of view. In any case out of the 8 names mentioned in the cut motion number 8 cannot be identified at all. With regard to Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7 they are detained under the orders of the Government of India and so far as the question of granting family allowance to them is concerned the matter is under correspondence with the Government of India.

With regard to Lokman Khan Sherwani, this security prisoner is getting an allowance of Rs. 112 per mensem. He is a bachelor and therefore this amount is considered to be sufficient for the maintenance of his family

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What about his own food?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He is being provided with food.

Now with regard to Hirendra Kumar De, this prisoner had no income before his arrest. He has a brother who is also a security prisoner, A. C. De, who used to live in a joint mess as a member of the joint family. He has been granted a family allowance of Rs 45 per mensem which goes towards the maintenance of the same family.

As regards Narendra Nath Bhowmik, this prisoner is a bachelor and has no direct dependents of his own. He had no personal income before his arrest and therefore no family allowance has been granted to him.

Coming to Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri's speech I find that he has been surprised at, and he has criticized, the reduced provision under this head. Instead of doing that I should think that he should have welcomed the reduced provision as a welcome sign indicating that the same number of prisoners will not be in detention in jails in the province throughout the year. He has said that 50 per cent. of the security prisoners are not getting any family allowance. That is not correct. More than 800 security prisoners are in receipt of family allowance (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Out of how many?) Out of 1,200. (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Out of 1,300.) No, less than 1,300 The percentage works out to more than 50. Some security prisoners have been given the maximum family allowance of even Rs. 200 per mensem. An allowance of Rs. 30 or Rs. 20 is not the general standard If any amount of less than Rs. 30 is given generally it is given on compassionate ground. The average standard is from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per month. Therefore the honourable member's criticisms are not correct.

Now with regard to a few other cases referred to, I cannot answer to the points raised off-hand because I have not the materials ready but they may be more or less exceptions. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has already indicated the policy regarding the grant of family allowance. It is not the Government's policy that in all cases family allowances equivalent to the pre-arrest income of the security prisoners are given, but it is the policy of Government to grant family allowance when they are satisfied that the family is in distress and has sustained financial loss on account

of the detention of the security prisoner. So, in all cases wherever it is found that there is distress family allowances have been granted. In some cases even in excess of the pre-arrest income of the security prisoners. In many cases that has been done. In the circumstances I oppose all the cut motions and press for the sanction of the demand under this head.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 62,56,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs 100 to raise a discussion about the difficulties of the families and dependents of the security prisoners for want of grant of any family allowance or sufficient allowance of (1) Lokman Khan Shirwany, (2) Hirendra Kumar De, (3) Narendra Bhawmik, (4) Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, (5) Syed Sultan Ahmed, (6) Mr. Hamidali Alig, (7) Jalal Ahmad and (8) brother-in-law of Maulana Islamabadi, all of Chittagong, was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs 62,56,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs 100 to raise a discussion about the small and insufficient grant of allowances to the State and political security prisoners, was then put and lost

The motion of Mr Ashutosh Lahiri that the demand of Rs. 62,56,000 for expenditure under the head "57 Miscellaneous" to raise a discussion about the work of Post-War Reconstruction Committee, was then put and lost

The motion of Mr Manmatha Nath Roy that the demand of Rs. 62,56,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" to raise a discussion about the desirability to provide for the year 1944-45 Government contribution towards an extension of dearness allowance to the low-paid employees of the local bodies as in 1945-46, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr Tulsi Chandra Goswami that a sum of Rs 62,56,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8-3 p.m. till 4 p m. on Thursday, the 15th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 15th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 201 members.

(When Starred Question No. 195 was called.)

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, will you please hold it over for a minute? The Hon'ble Chief Minister is coming.

(Starred Question No. 196 was called and the Hon'ble Minister was found absent.)

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not proper that Hon'ble Ministers should not be here. Let these stand over for the present.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Construction of Sarta Bridge over the river Halda.

58. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the construction of the Sarta Bridge over the river Halda on the Chittagong Hill Tract Road will be actually taken up;

(*ii*) whether any amount was sanctioned by Government for the construction of the said Bridge; if so, what was the amount;

(*iii*) what is the cause for this long delay in taking up the construction of this most important bridge of the district; and

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that this bridge if constructed will link up Raozan and Ranguma thanas and the Chittagong Hill Tract with Chittagong town overland?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of taking up the construction of the bridge at once?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain): (*a*)(*i*) I am afraid I cannot definitely say when the actual construction work can be taken up as it is a District Board project.

(*ii*) It was proposed to contribute a sum of Rs.73,000 towards the cost of construction of the bridge provided it was constructed in accordance with the minimum specification laid down for Road Fund works and the District Board agreed to meet from their own funds any additional amount which might be required to complete the project.

(*iii*) and (*b*) Due to the inability of the District Board to find the additional amount required to construct the bridge over and above the Government promised contribution of Rs.73,000 and also due to non-availability of bridge materials and their high prices during the present war emergency, it was decided about the middle of 1942 that the project should wait till the return of better times.

(*iv*) The bridge if constructed will improve communications in the area concerned.

Arrest of Sj. Moolraj Mehta.

89. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails)) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that Sj. Moolraj Mehta was arrested on the 17th July and since 31st July, 1944, has been detained in the Presidency Jail as a security prisoner;

(*ii*) whether he is a businessman and a journalist of Bombay;

(*iii*) whether he came to Bengal to report about the famine of 1943 as representative of the *Prabhat* and the *Forum*;

(*iv*) whether he joined the Bengal Relief Committee of which Sir Badridas Goenka is the President and was put in charge of the Anti-Disease Department of the said Committee;

(*v*) whether in that capacity he toured the affected parts of some districts of Bengal organising relief in over one hundred centres;

(*vi*) whether he wrote about his experiences in a publication, viz., "War against the people";

(*vii*) whether the book dealt with many acts of commission and omission of the present Ministry, and

(*viii*) whether the book was banned?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of deleting the portions of the book which is deemed objectionable by the Government and removing the ban?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what portions of the book are likely to be deleted?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Mr. Mehta was arrested on the 17th July, 1944, and was detained as a security prisoner for some time under orders of the Bengal Government. He has since been transferred to Lahore where he is being detained under orders of the Punjab Government.

(*ii*) to (*v*) I have no information.

(*vi*) No. Mrs. Kalyani Bhattacharjee is the author of the book "War against the people".

(*vii*) to (*c*) Do not arise.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Regarding an incident in Alipore Central Jail on 6th March, 1945.

***185.** (SHORT NOTICE.) **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether alarm whistle or bell was sounded in the Alipore Central Jail at about 8 p.m. in the night on 6th March, 1945?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that two Canadian security prisoners tried to scale over the jail walls and to escape;

(*ii*) that jail warders armed with *lathis* and armed guards with guns and bayonets fixed on entered the segregation ward occupied by the political security prisoners and assaulted the inmates;

(*iii*) that one Shree Tarapada Gupta received injuries on his head and is lying in the Jail Hospital;

(*iv*) that some armed guards were seen to load their guns within the aforesaid ward; and

(*v*) that Colonel M. N. Das, the Superintendent, Mr. Heath, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Taylor, Jailor, and other Deputy Jailors were present in the ward when the assault took place?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the reason for such assault?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Hon'ble Minister in charge went to visit the jail for ascertaining the real state of matter in this connection; and

(*ii*) whether the Hon'ble Minister met the security prisoners concerned and specially Shree Tarapada Gupta?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the lock-up hours for ordinary prisoners, political security prisoners and the Canadian security prisoners on 6th March, 1945, i.e., on the day of occurrence?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*), (*c*)(*i*) to (*iii*) and (*d*) Two prisoners—later identified as two European security prisoners—were detected in an attempt to escape and as required by rules the alarm was immediately sounded. The escaping prisoners jumped back into the segregation yard attached to the portion where political security prisoners are confined. In accordance with the procedure in sounding the alarm all prisoners who were not in the yards or cells were requested to return to their respective places immediately. A number of them refused to comply with the request and the jail staff present had to use force. In the course of the general disturbance security prisoner Babu Tarapada Gupta received a slight injury. As it was dark at the time it was not possible to ascertain exactly as to how the injury was received. There was no deliberate assault on any security prisoner and there would have been no necessity to use any force if the security prisoners had complied with the request of the jail staff to return to their cells and yards as they are required to do on sounding of the alarm.

(*c*)(*v*) These officers were present during the incident as described above.

(*c*)(*iv*) and (*e*)(*i*) No.

(*e*)(*ii*) Does not arise.

(*f*) Ordinary prisoners were locked up at 7-30 p.m. Security prisoners (both Indians and Europeans) are usually locked up at 8-30 p.m., but there was some delay on 6th March, 1945, due to the alarm and they were locked up at 8-45 p.m.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he will consider the prayer of Mr. Brajendra Nath Gupta, a pleader of Berhampore and brother of Mr. Tarapada Gupta, to have a special interview with Mr. Tarapada Gupta who received a slight injury?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I shall certainly consider that.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House whether before reading this answer in this House he himself visited the Central Jail and ascertained the reasons of this assault himself as he promised to do?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I do not think I ever promised that I would myself visit the jail and I did not visit the jail, but I can assure the members of this House that as far as security prisoners are concerned, they have got no complaint at the present time and they have been satisfied by the manner in which the Superintendent of the jail handled the situation.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who ordered *lathi* charge?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There was no *lathi* charge.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain the nature of injury received by Tarapada Gupta?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It was very slight skin injury on the head and he was immediately attended to and allowed to go back. There was nothing serious about it.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the injury in the head was caused?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As I have already stated, it is very difficult to tell because of the darkness and the security prisoner's version is that he was hit by a warder. He could not identify the warder and the security prisoners themselves said that it would not be fair to punish any warder unless and until they were sure who was the warder who had struck him.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Sreeman Tarapada Gupta was medically examined immediately on receipt of the injury?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Immediately he was sent to the hospital and he was attended to immediately.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of placing on the Library Table a copy of the medical report?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I will certainly consider that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why he did not think it proper to visit the jail himself after receiving such information regarding the serious assault on the security prisoner?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I do maintain that there was no question of serious assault. There was no complaint from the security prisoners and therefore there was no occasion for my personal visit.

Mr. NISITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this injury was caused inside the segregation ward where the political prisoners were lodged?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I believe that is so.

Mr. P. BANERJI: If according to the Hon'ble Minister there was no *lathi* charge, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the nature of force used in this case, as mentioned in his reply?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: They were being made to go inside the cells and very likely somebody hit him by means of a stick but it is very difficult to say what actually happened.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the security prisoners, in refusing to disperse as they are alleged to have done in the answer, showed any inclination to use of force?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I do not think the question arises. There was no question of using force.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when they were already within the ward, what was the necessity of using force or using *lathi*?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: According to the rules and regulations of the jail as soon as an alarm is sounded, everybody is supposed to go inside the cell and not remain in the yard.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if anything like this assault did happen in any other ward in the jail?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a hypothetical question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I am asking for information if any assault took place in any other ward of that jail on that day?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No, Sir.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there are only four cells in the segregation ward and there are yards where the assault took place?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Yes; they were in yards and they were told to go inside the ward and not to remain in the yards.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many security prisoners were in that particular ward at that time?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I would like to draw the attention of the honourable member that there was no question of anybody being assaulted or anything being intertered with in the ward itself. It was in the segregation yard.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state approximately how many jail warders rushed to disperse the crowd?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am sorry I cannot give you that answer.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state definitely whether Srijut Tarapada Gupta was actually removed to the jail hospital or not?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has said that he was immediately removed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Whether he was taken to the hospital or not?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has said that he was taken to the hospital.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Any way, it appears that my friends could not understand the reply given. Have you followed what was the reply?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have very carefully followed it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long was Srijut Tarapada Gupta detained in the jail hospital?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As far as I am aware it was not necessary for him to remain there for a long time. As soon as his wound was attended to, he could go back to his ward.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether that evening when he received the injury he was detained in the jail hospital for the whole night or sent back to his cell immediately after his wound was dressed?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As I have already said, he was sent back after his wound was dressed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He was not kept in the hospital at all?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the present position of Mr. Tarapada Gupta's wound?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As far as I am aware it was only a slight wound and he is all right. There is nothing wrong with him at present.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons why a number of apparently unarmed people could not be dispersed without use of force?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether armed guards also entered the segregation yard?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have no information.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in which yard the two Canadian security prisoners were lodged from which they tried to escape?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I want notice. I do not see how the question of Canadian prisoners come in.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any of the jail warders received any injury, bruise or even a scratch from the security prisoners?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I do not think there is anybody making out a case that the security prisoners assaulted any warder.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the nationality of the European prisoners who tried to escape?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is there any record kept of the nationality of the prisoners?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Very likely there may be; I have not got here anything at present.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is in a position to deny the fact communicated by the questioner that they were Canadian prisoners?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As far as my information goes, they are not Canadians.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the distance in yards between the segregation yard where the security prisoners were lodged and the jail yard where the Canadian or the European prisoners were lodged?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Very likely Dr. Sanyal has got a better idea of it than I have.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes; I was an inmate there.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the yard was lighted then?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: So far as my information goes, it was dark at that time and it was very difficult to see.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the injury was caused by the order of the Superintendent who was present at the time of incident?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Certainly not.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether any order was passed to the warders in order to quell the disturbances?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: May I point out that there was no question of disturbances? The security prisoners were told to go into their wards or cells whatever they may be and some of them refused and they were being pushed in.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he personally enquired from the security prisoners that they refused to enter their wards?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already replied.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From the statement just now made and the answer that he gave to my question that he does not say that any of the warders received any injury, do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to say that the security prisoners in question did not offer any active resistance whatsoever?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Certainly they did not brandish any sticks.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these two European prisoners received any injury?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have no information.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the basis of the statement? Is it the report of the Superintendent of the Jail?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which walls of the jail did the European prisoners try to scale over with a view to escape? Was it one of the yard walls inside the jail or was it one of the main walls which led to the street outside?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I think they got over one of the smaller walls and they were attempting to get over the boundary wall perhaps.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the boundary walls of the Alipore Central Jail are at a great distance from the cells and the prisoners wards, namely, the Segregation wards, and there could not have been——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of inference.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is he aware of the distance?

Mr. SPEAKER: Up to that it is all right.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Let us have that then. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the boundary walls

of the Alipore Central Jail are at a great distance from the yard walls which he now says was one of the smaller walls which the prisoners tried to get over?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I do not know about the distance and all that but I am almost certain that they were trying to scale over the outer walls.

Sir HENRY BIRKMYRE: Is it a fact that the security prisoners were assisting the escape of these two prisoners by keeping on guard?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There is no such allegation made by the European prisoners. In their statement they made it clear they have received no assistance from anybody and that they did it on their own.

Sir HENRY BIRKMYRE: Thank you.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Government consider the desirability of instituting a judicial enquiry to find out whether the jail officials concerned exceeded the limits of their official duty in meeting the situation?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As I have already pointed out, there is no question of exceeding limits; on the other hand the general impression among the security prisoners was that the Superintendent of the Jail handled the situation very tactfully.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the statement of the European prisoners referred to contained any allegation that the security prisoners were not only trying to help these European prisoners to quit the jail but also to quit India?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not quite follow.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Dr. Sanyal is trying to be clever.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My question is whether the European prisoners admitted in their statement that the security prisoners not only tried to help the European prisoners to quit the jail but also to quit India.

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Sj. Tarapada Gupta was always inside the jail ward and did not go out of it?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have seen various statements of the honourable member which are not absolutely correct as regards security prisoners. On this occasion also he has perhaps been misinformed about this.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers it desirable to hold not a judicial enquiry but an independent enquiry not by jail officials against whom we have got complaints?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I may point out again to the House that had the security prisoners any grievance about this they would have certainly drawn my attention to it by means of representation. So far no representation has been made and my information is that they are quite satisfied about it.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of personally going to the Alipore Central Jail to enquire of the security prisoners their own version?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As I have already stated again and again there is no reason for it. Honourable members here are getting excited about something with which the security prisoners themselves are not at all seriously concerned. I may point out again that had they had at all any sense of grievance they would have drawn my attention by means of letters or wires without any delay.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that petitions are suppressed sometimes in the Alipore Central Jail?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Not when addressed to the Home Chief Minister.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Can the Hon'ble Home Minister say that when he receives complaints or representations he takes any step whatsoever?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise out of this question at all.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: The Hon'ble Chief Minister says that he has not taken any steps because there is no complaint, and that he would have taken some steps if there were any letters or representations addressed to him. You know, Sir, there were questions from which it would appear that I myself, Mr. Shib Nath Banerjee and Mr. Niharendu Datta Mazumdar sent applications to the Hon'ble Minister but he did not think it desirable to visit the Presidency Jail. So I am asking whether he could give us the assurance that he will take steps when he receives representation, submissions or letters from the prisoners in Jail.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It is immaterial whether I take notice or not. I have only stated that it would have come to my notice. So far nothing has come to me.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of visiting the affected security prisoners in company of some members of this side and make proper enquiry?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, it is a new suggestion.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no new suggestion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: His case is that because no petition or representation has been made to him by security prisoners he cannot look into the matter. So I suggest that he may voluntarily go in company with some members on this side of the House. Will he do that?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have already tried my level best to make it clear that honourable members are trying to make out that something very serious has happened when it is not so.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the security prisoners in the Alipore Central Jail are in a very disadvantageous position as regards sending petitions to the Home Minister when they are in Jail. This happened once when the lights were put out. The security prisoners sent a petition but that was deliberately suppressed.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another question.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAYA: Here also petitions may be similarly suppressed.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I can assure honourable members that very strict orders have been passed that if any representation is made to the Minister it must be sent to him without delay and it should not be held up.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Since when?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It is about 6 months ago.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that when the present Chief Minister, was when formerly the Home Minister, petitions addressed to him by us did not reach him till I came out of the Jail?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am talking of the present and not of the past.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that this report has been received from those against whom complaints have been made and in view of the fact that Government furnishes incorrect information sometimes, does the Hon'ble Minister——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter. These are all assumptions. You can put your question whether the Hon'ble Minister is prepared to do this or that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that the security prisoners could not represent their case, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to send any of his Secretaries to the jail to have a direct version of the security prisoners?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: If I had any doubt in my mind about this I would have certainly taken steps to ascertain from the security prisoners apart from the report I have received. But as I have no doubt whatsoever on this question, I do not propose to take any further action in this matter.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Is it the policy of the Government then not to have the version of the security prisoners who have been assaulted?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On the other hand, I try always to give every consideration to any representation that comes to me.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he did establish any personal contact with the security prisoners in this case?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think he has said times without number that he has not.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, he says that he is more than satisfied.

Shortage of sugar in Chittagong.

***196.** (SHORT NOTICE.) **Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether he is aware that an acute sugar famine prevails in the district of Chittagong inasmuch as sugar is not available even in small quantities for invalids and infants?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the date of despatch;

(*ii*) the quantity of last consignment to Chittagong; and

(*iii*) the date of its arrival there?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the total quantity of sugar sent to Chittagong during the period of 1st of January, 1945, to 15th February, 1945, and the corresponding quantity for the same period of 1944 and the respective dates of their despatch from Calcutta and arrival at Chittagong?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (a) Government are aware of shortage of sugar in Chittagong.

(b) (i) Within the first week of February.

(ii) 300 tons.

(iii) As in (i).

(c) Total despatches to Chittagong between the 1st January and the 15th February, 1945, were the 300 tons already referred to. Despatches to Chittagong during the corresponding period in 1944 were 488 tons. The exact dates of despatch and arrival in 1944 cannot be supplied at a short notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the stock of sugar at Chittagong was allowed to go down when there is a highly expensive organisation for movement and storage set up by the Civil Supplies Directorate?

NAWABZADA K. NASARULLAH: The honourable member, I think, knows that the train communication to Chittagong is very difficult at the present moment.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the steamer quota for Chittagong *via* Chandpur from Khulna as well as from Calcutta which was originally fixed at 600 tons but subsequently reduced to 400 tons per trip, such tonnage for Civil Supplies movement was not used and steamers are going empty for want of goods to Chittagong?

NAWABZADA K. NASARULLAH: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that lots of sugar have been lying in Calcutta godowns and no programme was made for allotment to mufassal districts only to pamper Calcutta at the cost of mufassal?

NAWABZADA K. NASARULLAH: I think the honourable member is misinformed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the quota of sugar stocked in Calcutta to be remitted to mufassal?

NAWABZADA K. NASARULLAH: I ask for notice.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the monthly quota of sugar for Chittagong?

NAWABZADA K. NASARULLAH. I ask for notice.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR. Is the Government prepared to send sugar soon to Chittagong?

NAWABZADA K. NASARULLAH: As soon as Government is able to send sugar to Chittagong, sugar will be sent there.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what stands in the way of sending sugar to Chittagong?

NAWABZADA K. NASARULLAH: There are two difficulties. First, we are not getting the sugar quota as much as is required to be sent to Chittagong; and secondly, the Chittagong problem is a very difficult problem: the communication there is very difficult.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has Government made any arrangement for shipping sugar to Chittagong *via* Chandpur?

NAWABZADA K. NASARULLAH: Government is making that arrangement.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is Government prepared to accept an offer of carrying sugar from Calcutta to Chittagong by a steamer direct if it is offered within seven days?

NAWABZADA K. NASARULLAH: Government will consider that if the offer is made.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Movement Section of the Bengal Government which is entrusted with arranging transport contacted the River Transport Directorate to find out whether such transport can be effected?

NAWABZADA K. NASARULLAH: I ask for notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions over.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

37—Education—General.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,56,63,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General".

Miss MIRA DATTA GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 and I want to raise a discussion in this connection about the inadequacy of the grants made to the non-Government primary and secondary schools in the province.

Sir, the latest Report on Public Instruction in Bengal on which I could lay my hand in the Library of the House was for the year 1940-41 (published in 1943). Are we to presume that there has been a "black-out" of Public Instruction in this province? We all feel very keenly that the matter of education has certainly been very much neglected during these years.

Whereas in all countries, in spite of emergency of the war, the scope and extent of public education has very rightly not been curtailed, in this province many educational institutions have closed down mainly due to want of adequate funds.

At one time public institutions were largely financed and maintained by public grants and endowments. This province has since been ravaged by famine and economic disasters, mainly due to mismanagement of the Government. Public grants have ceased to flow in as before. On the other hand Government grants are so meagre that the standard and extent of public education have very much deteriorated in these years.

Economic disaster has left its indeliable mark on the field of education. Prices of the barest necessities of life have gone up so high that the poorly paid teachers can barely make both ends meet. It is not difficult to appreciate how impossible it is for ill-fed, ill-clothed teachers with starving families to attend to their work properly.

The lack of equipments apparatus, etc., in the schools which again is due to inadequate grants make the education incomplete, bookish and

worthless. As the teachers are ill-paid, they naturally look for positions in the Government services with the result that the schools are virtually left to the care of untrained and second rate teachers. It has thus come about that in a very large number of schools there are hardly any graduate teachers. This is the general situation regarding education in the province and my observations apply both to Government and non-Government schools.

Sir, I now want to mention a few of what appear to me to be the serious defects in the system of the primary and secondary education of the province. I shall refer to the district school boards. In pursuance of the Rural Primary Education Act of 1930, 19 districts have district school boards and two more districts were to have it within a few months. But the organisation and constitution of the district school board are not at all conducive to the interest of primary education in the districts. Most of the members of the board are elected on party lines and their influence and views predominate in the school boards. The Education Board therefore come to be composed of many who are unacquainted with the first principle of primary education. In many districts election is not free from the influence of the Chairman of the district board and his party. In this way genuine educationists are left out of the board. It is very natural therefore that the public are not very much in sympathy with these Education Boards and in the schools managed by them. Here also pay of teachers is very meagre and that is also not regularly paid month by month Schools thus established are poorly staffed with poor daily attendance. The number of students on the roll is too much inflated in order to justify the appointment of more teachers. This means unnecessary waste and there is no means of checking this waste under this system.

Training schools and centres are maintained for the training of teachers who are not sufficiently qualified. This is another instance of waste of public money. The curriculum was to be formulated so as to give a rural bias but nothing has been done in this direction.

Instances have been found where schools have been shifted from one area to another, thus debarring the facilities to the scheduled caste and caste Hindu pupils. Generally the scheme and administration of education have been most arbitrary, unsympathetic and wasteful and in my view have not served the best interests of the province.

I therefore think that a new scheme be framed covering the whole field of primary and secondary education of the province because it is a matter so vital to our future.

(Maulvi Abdul Wahed Bokainagari rose to move his motion No. 61.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Maulvi Sahib, the first part of your motion is "to fix the minimum pay of primary school teachers at Rs. 50 per month by giving them rationing at Government controlled rates." আপনি first portionএ কি বলতে চান তা ভাল করে বুঝতে পারি না। What do you mean by "by giving them rationing at Government controlled rates"?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order. Have you accepted our suggestion that these motions should be treated as a whole and not merely to explain the main purpose of the cut motions which is by way of reducing the demand by Rs. 100? If you are going to alter the wording of the motion as a whole then we are prepared to accept the position provided you accept our argument that our motion is a complete whole and must be put as such.

Mr. SPEAKER: Who is going to say that it is not a complete whole? That is why I was going to understand it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The question of understanding comes in only when such motion is treated as a whole, otherwise the member concerned will explain his own position in his speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: The meaning is not clear at all. It is ambiguous.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He does not understand English. He speaks in Bengali and he will make his position clear in his speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: Maulvi Sahib, আপনি বলুন "and give them rationing at Government controlled rates".

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED BOKAINAGARI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government—

(*a*) to fix the minimum pay of primary school teachers at Rs. 50 per month and give them rationing at Government controlled rates;

(*b*) to repair the primary schools that have been damaged or demolished;

(*c*) to introduce compulsory primary education.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব! সাধারণ শিক্ষাকার্য্য সম্বন্ধে আমার নামে যে ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব আছে আমি সেটা উত্থাপন করছি। প্রস্তাবটার উদ্দেশ্য হ'ল যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রাথমিক শিক্ষকদের নিম্নতম বেতন মাসিক ৫০৲ টাকার কম করতে পারেন নি। এই যে দরিদ্র শিক্ষকগণ, গভর্ণমেণ্ট অন্যান্য কর্ম্মচারীদের যে রকম ration দিবার ব্যবস্থা করেছেন, এদের জন্য সে রকম ব্যবস্থা করতে পারেন নি এবং যে সকল প্রাইমারী স্কুল ভেঙ্গে গেছে সেগুলি মেরামত করা হয়নি এবং যেখানে আদৌ স্কুল প্রতিষ্ঠিত করা হয়নি সেখানে সে রকম স্কুলও প্রতিষ্ঠিত করা হয়নি, এবং যেগুলি আধ-ভাঙ্গা হয়ে আছে সেগুলি মেরামত করা হয়নি এবং প্রাইমারী শিক্ষাকে বাধ্যতামূলকভাবে প্রচলিত করতে পারেননি। এই বিষয়ে প্রতিবাদ জানাবার জন্য আমি এই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপিত করেছিলাম।

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব! আজকে বাংলা দেশে প্রাইমারী স্কুলের শিক্ষকদের সম্বন্ধে যখন আমরা চিন্তা করি তখন দেখতে পাই যে এই শিক্ষিত সমাজের মধ্যে একমাত্র এই শিক্ষকদেরই সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা দুরবস্থা এবং তা প্রায় চরমে উঠেছে। একটা প্রবাদ আছে যে "বাপ জন্ম দেয় ভূত, আর শিক্ষক তাদের করে পূত"—এমন যে শিক্ষকেরা যারা মানুষের মধ্যে মনুষ্যত্বের বীজ প্রথম রোপণ করে তাদের বেতন দেখি ১০৲ টাকা, কি ১৫৲ টাকা। আজ ম্যাট্রিকুলেশন পাশ শিক্ষকের অভাব নাই, কিন্তু ১০-১৫।২০৲ টাকার উপরে কেউই বেতন পাচ্ছেন না অথচ গভর্ণমেণ্ট অন্যান্য যে সব পচা বিভাগ খুলেছেন যেখানে ঐ কর্ম্মচারীদের বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর অপকর্ম্মগুলো ঢাকা দেওয়া এবং প্রচার propaganda ছাড়া অন্য বিশেষ কোন কর্ম্ম নাই, সেখানে ঐ জাতীয় লোকদের ৫০।১০০।২০০৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত বেতন দিয়ে রাখা হয়, অথচ এই প্রাইমারী স্কুলের শিক্ষকগণ যাঁরা প্রকৃতপক্ষে দেশে মানুষ তৈরী করছেন তাঁদের অত্যন্ত অবহেলা ও তাচ্ছিল্যের সঙ্গে ব্যবহার করা হয়। এটা খুবই দুঃখের বিষয়। তা ছাড়া বর্ত্তমানে যে ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে তাতে প্রাইমারী স্কুলের শিক্ষকেরা যখন শিক্ষা বিভাগের অধীনে কোন চাকরীর জন্য যায় তখন কত যে দৌড়াদৌড়ি তাদের করতে হয় তার কোন সীমা নাই। তার সঙ্গে এমনও হয় যে হয়ত ১২৲ টাকা বা ১৫৲ টাকা মাহিনার একটা চাকরী পাবেন, কিন্তু সেজন্য চাকরী পাওয়ার পূর্ব্বেই ৩।৪।৫ মাসের মাহিনা অগ্রিম খরচ করতে হয়, আর তা না করলে সে চাকরী তাদের জোটে না। তা ছাড়া দেখতে পাই এই শিক্ষকদের উপর আর একটা অবিচার চলছে। সময় সময় দেখা যায় যে হঠাৎ কোন শিক্ষকের বদলীর আদেশ হয়ে গেল—এক জায়গা থেকে অন্য জায়গায় যাবে। সেই গরীব বেচারা নিজের বাড়ীতে থেকে ১০।১৫৲ টাকা মাহিনা পেয়ে সংসার দেখে শিক্ষাদান কার্য্য করত: সে ১০।১৫।২০ মাইল দূরে বদলীর আদেশ হ'লে ব্যস্ত হয়ে দৌড়াদৌড়ি আরম্ভ করে এবং বদলীর আদেশ রদ করবার জন্য তাকে ৪।৫ মাসের মাহিনা খরচ করতে হয়। এই রকম অবিচারের প্রতীকার যদি না হয় তাহলে এদেশে বিশেষ করে গ্রামের জনসাধারণের প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা একেবারে লোপ পেয়ে যাবে। আর শিক্ষা যদি লোপ পায় তাহলে দেশে মানুষ তৈরীর হবে কিসে? তা ছাড়া সেই যে মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষার জন্য বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভা একেবারেই উদগ্রীব হয়ে লেগেছেন সেই মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষার ছাত্র কোথা থেকে আসবে যদি প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা নিয়মিতভাবে পরিচালিত না হয়। দেশের জনসাধারণ যদি তাদের ছেলেপিলেদের প্রাথমিক শিক্ষায় শিক্ষিত করতে না পারে তাহ'লে মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বা উচ্চ শিক্ষার জন্য ছাত্র আসবে কেমন করে? যদি তাঁরা মনে করেন যে কতকগুলি বড় লোক যারা তাঁদের মত সহরে বাস করে এবং যারা আগে শিক্ষিত হয়ে বহু টাকা রোজগার করেছে কেবল তাদের ছেলেপিলেই লেখাপড়া করবে আর গরীব জনসাধারণের ছেলেপিলে লেখাপড়া করবে না বা তাদের সেজন্য কোন সুবিধা দেবেন না তাহলে

সেটা মহা ভুল হবে। মাননীয় শিক্ষা-সচিব মহাশয় হয়ত বলবেন যে বোকাইনগরী সাহেব যে প্রস্তাব এনেছেন সেইমত শিক্ষকদের নিম্নতম বেতন ৫০৲ টাকা করতে হ'লে দেশে আবার একটা শিক্ষা-কর বসাতে হবে বা সাধারণের উপর যে টাকায় ৫১৷৷ পয়সা শিক্ষা-কর আছে সেটা বাড়াতে হবে। কিন্তু আমি বলব ট্যাক্স বাংলার গরীব জনসাধারণ কোন দিকে কম দিচ্ছে? তারা ত কোটি কোটি টাকা নানা দিক দিয়ে দিচ্ছে। তাদের ঘাড় মুচড়ে যে টাকা আনা হচ্ছে সেই টাকায় যখন বলা হয় শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করা হউক, প্রাইমারী স্কুলের শিক্ষকদের বেতনের সুবন্দোবস্ত করা হউক, তখনই বলবেন নূতন ট্যাক্স করা প্রয়োজন; তহবিলে টাকা নাই, কোথা থেকে দিব? কিন্তু চতুর্দ্দিকে যখন দৃষ্টিপাত করা যায় তখন দেখা যায় যে বাংলার রাজকোষে কোটি কোটি টাকা জমেছে এবং এদিকে সেদিকে নামাঙ্কপে সেটা খরচ হচ্ছে। এই মন্ত্রীমহাশয়দের কুকুর-বিড়াল প্রতিপালনের জন্য বহু টাকা খরচ হতে পারে অথচ প্রাইমারী স্কুলের শিক্ষকদের জন্য টাকা নাই বোলে যে অজুহাত দেখাবেন সে অজুহাত বাংলা দেশের জনসাধারণ মানতে রাজী নয়।

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government with regard to open Government hostel for Scheduled Caste students abolishing the existing Scheduled Caste hostels on grant-in-aid basis.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the general policy of Scheduled Caste education in Bengal.

মিঃ স্পীকার স্যার, বাংলার শিক্ষায় পশ্চাৎপদ তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির উন্নতির জন্য বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট একটি বিশেষ তহবিল (Special Fund) খোলার পর থেকে, যদিও কোন scheme নেই এই অজুহাতে, যদিও ষ্টাইপেণ্ড দেবার সময় উপযুক্ত ছাত্র পাওয়া যায় না এই অজুহাতে, যদিও চাকরী দেবার সময় উপযুক্ত প্রার্থী পাওয়া যায় না এই অজুহাতে, যদিও স্কুল নেই এই কারণ দেখিয়ে এযাবৎকাল বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট তপশীলভুক্ত জাতি সম্বন্ধে সুবিচার আদৌ করেননি, তাহ'লেও এই বিশেষ তহবিল থেকে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির উন্নতির জন্য, তাদের শিক্ষার উন্নতির জন্য এযাবৎকাল যে কার্য্য করা হইতেছিল সেটা যদিও আশানুরূপ হয়নি, তাহ'লেও একেবারে যে কিছুই করা হয়নি একথা আমরা বলতে চাই না। তবে এই বিশেষ তহবিলের কার্য্যপ্রণালী কিরূপ সে সম্বন্ধে বলবার অনেক কিছু আছে। যখন এই বিশেষ তহবিল খোলা হয় তখন সেই টাকা থেকে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির ছাত্রদের বিশেষ বৃত্তি এবং বিভিন্ন স্কুলে যেখানে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির ছাত্রদের সংখ্যা অধিক সেখানে সাহায্য দেবার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়। কিন্তু তারপর বর্ত্তমান Ministry আরম্ভ হবার পর থেকে দেখা গেল, ১৯৩৮ সাল থেকে ১৯৪৩ সাল পর্য্যন্ত যতগুলি শিক্ষা-প্রতিষ্ঠান গড়া হয়েছিল সেগুলির অধিকাংশই প্রতিষ্ঠিত হইয়াছিল যেসব সভ্যরা, তাঁরা আজ এদিকে, কাজেই আজ যাঁরা গভর্ণমেণ্টের সমর্থক সদস্য তাঁরা নিজেদের নাম বা নিজেদের কৃতির জাহির করবার জন্য অথবা যাঁরা Opposition Partyতে আছেন তাহাদিগকে খেলো করবার জন্য সেই শিক্ষা-প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিকে তুলে দেবার চেষ্টা আরম্ভ করলেন। নিজেরা নূতন কিছু প্রতিষ্ঠান বা শিক্ষালয় গঠন করার চেষ্টা না করিয়া অপরের সুনাম ও সুযশে ঈর্ষান্বিত হইয়া তাঁরা এরূপ কার্য্য করতে লাগলেন শুধু তাই নহে এই যে ষ্টাইপেণ্ড দেওয়া, স্কলারসিপ দেওয়া এযাবৎকাল দেখা গিয়েছে যারা গভর্ণমেণ্টকে সমর্থন করেন, তাঁরা যে ছাত্রের নাম করবেন সেই সমস্ত ছাত্রদের ষ্টাইপেণ্ড বা স্কলারসিপ দেওয়া হয়; Opposition Partyর যেসব যারা, তাদের সমর্থিত ছাত্রদের ষ্টাইপেণ্ড দেওয়া হয় না। ছাত্রগণ গভর্ণমেণ্টের স্বদলীয় কিংবা বিদলীয় সদস্য কর্ত্তৃক recommended হইলে তার উপযুক্ততার বিভিন্নতা ঘটে না এই কারণে ছাত্রেরা গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে কি বিপক্ষে একথা উঠতে পারে না। ছাত্রেরা উপযুক্ত কিনা, তারা তপশীলভুক্ত সম্প্রদায়ের ছাত্র কিনা, এইটাই আমার মনে হয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে দেখা বাঞ্ছনীয়।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি কলিকাতার ষ্টুডেণ্ট হোষ্টেল সম্বন্ধে দু-একটা কথা বলবো। কলিকাতায় পূর্ব্ব থেকে একটা গভর্ণমেণ্টের পরিচালিত তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির ছাত্রের হোষ্টেল ছিল। এই বিশেষ তহবিল খোলার পর থেকে কলিকাতায় বাণীপিঠ এবং বাণী হোষ্টেল নামক আরও দুইটি হোষ্টেল খোলা হয়। এই দুইটিতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে grant-in-aidও দেবার ব্যবস্থা হয়। এই দুইটি হোষ্টেলের মধ্যে, বাণীপিঠএ ৫৫টি ও বাণীতে ২৫টি ছাত্র থাকত। ইহার ফলে পূর্ব্বাপেক্ষা ৮০টি ছাত্রের বিনা ভাড়ায় কলিকাতায় থাকবার ব্যবস্থা হ'ল।

যখন বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্ট আরম্ভ হ'ল তখন ঐ হোষ্টেলে যে managing committee ছিল, তার মধ্যে যাঁরা বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের সমর্থক নহেন, তাঁহাদিগকে তাড়াবার জন্য ঐ কমিটিতে বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের সমর্থক

সভ্য যাঁরা তাঁরা চেষ্টা করলেন। বর্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের সমর্থক এবং উক্ত কমিটির একজন মেম্বর মিথ্যা এবং unconstitutional মিটিং করে গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিরোধী দলীয় সভ্যগণকে বাদ দিয়া এক নূতন কমিটি করেন। কিন্তু D.P.I সেটা সমর্থন না করিয়া, যখন সেই পূর্ব্ব committeeকে বজায় রাখলেন তখন এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের সমর্থক তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির সভ্যরা একটা বিশেষ ষড়যন্ত্র করে নূতন হোষ্টেল করবার চেষ্টা করলেন। গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে যদি তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির জন্য নূতন হোষ্টেল করেন আমরা সেটা সাদরে আহ্বান করি এবং এই প্রচেষ্টা খুব ভাল বলে মনে করি।

১৯৩৮ সালে ৮০টি ছাত্রের জন্য হোষ্টেল করা হয়েছিল, কিন্তু বর্তমানে ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সালে ছাত্রসংখ্যা ১৯৩৮ সাল অপেক্ষা দ্বিগুণ হয়ে গিয়েছে। কাজেই সেই হোষ্টেল অপেক্ষা এখন আরও হোষ্টেল কলিকাতায় স্থাপন করা বিশেষ আবশ্যক। যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে সেটা করা হয় খুবই ভাল। কিন্তু এই নূতন হোষ্টেল করার দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী ও কার্য্যধারা দেখে মনে হয় যে হোষ্টেল করা তাঁদের আসল উদ্দেশ্য নয়। হোষ্টেল করতে গেলেন হালসীবাগান নামক স্থানে, যার নিকটে কোন কলেজ নাই। ছাত্রেরা হোষ্টেলে থাকবে তাদের পড়ার জন্য। ছাত্রদের যদি শুধু বাস করবার জন্য হোষ্টেল হয়, তাহলে ধাপার মাঠে নিয়ে গিয়ে বড় বাড়ী করে দিতে পারতেন। কলিকাতার কেন্দ্রস্থলে যে হোষ্টেল ছিল তার grant-in-aid বন্ধ করার কারণ কিছু আমি বুঝতে পারি না। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে বলতে চাই, যে হোষ্টেল নভেম্বর মাসে দেখা গেল খুব ভাল, ডিসেম্বর মাসে তার grant-in-aid কি করে বন্ধ করা যেতে পারে? যখন হোষ্টেলের (at this stage there was red light) স্যার দয়া করে আরও দু' মিনিট সময় দিন।

Mr. SPEAKER : আচ্ছা বলুন।

Mr. PATIRAM ROY : যখন হোষ্টেলে ছাত্রসংখ্যা ক্রমশঃ বৃদ্ধি হচ্ছে তখন একটা হোষ্টেল বন্ধ করে আর একটা নূতন হোষ্টেল খোলবার কি কারণ থাকতে পারে? এবং এই নূতন হোষ্টেল খোলায় Scheduled Caste ছাত্রদের কি বিশেষ সুবিধা হবে? যদি নূতন হোষ্টেল খুলতেই হয় তবে ছাত্রদের আবশ্যকমত করা হউক যাতে কলিকাতায় কলেজে অধ্যয়নকারী সমস্ত ছাত্রের সুবিধা হতে পারে। এই পরিষদে গত অধিবেশনে কলিকাতায় ছাত্রসংখ্যা এবং grant-in-aided যে সমস্ত হোষ্টেল আছে তাদের অবস্থা জানবার জন্য প্রশ্ন উত্থাপন করা হয়েছিল কিন্তু এযাবৎকাল তার কোন উত্তর পাওয়া যায় নাই এর কারণ কি আসল অবস্থা জনসাধারণকে জানতে না দেওয়া? আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে বলবো--নূতন একটা হোষ্টেল কেন, দুটা, তিনটা, চারটা, পাঁচটা হোষ্টেল, ছাত্রদের সংখ্যা অনুযায়ী যত হোষ্টেল দরকার তাই করা হউক। কিন্তু এই যে পুরাতন হোষ্টেল আছে এটা বন্ধ করার কোন সঙ্গত কারণ থাকতে পারে না। একমাত্র কারণ থাকতে পারে Opposition Party তপশীলভুক্ত মেম্বর যাঁরা, তাঁরা এই হোষ্টেল পরিচালনা না করেন--এ ছাড়া আর কিছুই না।

আজ গভর্ণমেণ্ট কি চান পূর্ব্ব যে সমস্ত শিক্ষা-প্রতিষ্ঠান এই বাংলা দেশে গঠিত হয়েছিল তার পরিচালক ও প্রতিষ্ঠাতা যাঁরা, তাঁরা যদি আজ বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টকে সমর্থন না করেন তাহলে বাংলার সেই শিক্ষা-প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিকে ভেঙ্গে চুরে--নূতন করে গড়া হউক বা না হউক, সেগুলিকে ভেঙ্গে চুরমার করে দিতে হবে? এই কি গভর্ণমেণ্টের বাংলার তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির প্রতি দরদ? এই কি বাংলার তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির উন্নতি বিধান?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL : রসিক দাসের হোষ্টেলের খবর কি? সেখানে মেয়ে মানুষ নিয়ে মকদ্দমা হ'ল?

Mr. SPEAKER : শেষ হয়েছে আপনার?

Mr. PATIRAM ROY : আজ্ঞে না। গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট যখন লিখেছিলাম তখন গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট হতে উত্তর পেলাম "বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট ঠিক করেছেন aided কোন হোষ্টেল না রেখে গভর্ণমেণ্ট হোষ্টেল করা হবে।" আমি জানতে চাই এইটাই যদি গভর্ণমেণ্টের policy হয় তাহলে বাংলা দেশে grant-in-aid দেওয়া স্কুলগুলি কেন থাকে? তাহলে বাংলা দেশে grant-in-aid কলেজগুলি কেন থাকে? তাহলে কলিকাতায় এতগুলি grant-in-aided কলেজ, হোষ্টেলগুলি কেন থাকে? গভর্ণমেণ্টের policy যদি তাই হয় তাহলে বাংলা দেশে সমস্ত grant-in-aided হোষ্টেল, স্কুল, কলেজ তুলে দিয়ে গভর্ণমেণ্ট নিজের management, এর ভার নিতে পারেন। কিন্তু তা না করে তাঁদের policy প্রয়োগ করা হ'ল কেবল ঐ বাণীপিঠ আর বাণী হোষ্টেলের বেলায়। আমি এ বিষয়ে সদাশয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the indifference of Government in the matter of introducing free compulsory primary education and of expansion of secondary education in Bengal.

The question of introduction of free and compulsory primary education in this country has been agitating the public mind for more than half a century. There are no two opinions about the urgency of complete eradication of illiteracy of the masses from the country. The demand is persistent, country-wide and universal and all popular efforts so far made have failed to move the Government to action to take up the matter in right earnest and tackle the problem with determination—with a determination that this evil must be removed at any cost and as quickly as possible.

After 200 years of British rule the percentage of literacy is barely 10. If British rule is to continue and the policy hitherto pursued remains in tact, there is absolutely no hope of eradication of illiteracy in this country. Sir, it is said that the Government of India Act of 1935 has conceded autonomy to the provinces and popular ministries are functioning since April, 1937. Seven years have passed away but we have not advanced a single step further. The same time-worn methods of British bureaucracy are still being vigorously pursued by our popular Ministers. They have got no imagination, no conviction of their own and not the stamina to bring about a marked change in the policy and tone in the administration of the country. It seems to me that they do not desire in their heart of hearts that illiteracy should disappear from the country as quickly as possible just as our British masters do not desire that the people of this country should become literate. Do they not realise that illiteracy of the masses is a permanent hindrance to the development of our country in any direction whatsoever? It is one of the vital problems affecting the welfare of the masses. Why, it is the first and foremost problem of the day which requires immediate solution, and cannot brook delay even a moment longer. Many social and economic measures have failed to achieve the desired object because of lack of education among the masses of the people. Colossal ignorance, superstition and prejudice among the masses for want of education stand in the way of any reforms whatsoever, social or economic, at every step. Removal of mass illiteracy is the paramount necessity of the day; otherwise all talks of post-war reconstruction are mere eye-wash and lacks sincerity. I believe if the Ministers are really honest and sincere and are determined to tackle the problem they can do it. But they are indifferent. They never think for themselves how within the limited resources at our disposal and within the shortest possible time a network of primary schools can be spread over the rural areas so that not a single child of the nation of school going age is excluded because of poverty or social prejudice. The element of compulsion is absolutely necessary. The education of our boys and girls irrespective of caste, creed and community up to a certain age must be made free, compulsory and universal. If the Government simply pursue the methods adopted in other advanced and independent countries of the world and attempt to engraft similar machinery set up in those countries they will never succeed because our resources are extremely limited and the local conditions are quite different. We must build our structure on the basis of the ideal of plain living and high thinking. I think that the Government should first of all establish a net work of schools, free primary schools, throughout the length and breadth of the province and compel every boy and girl to go to the nearest school and equip them with available resources of teachers, either paid or honorary, at our disposal and then in this way after completing the ground work improve the personnel of the staff and other equipments gradually.

The popular Ministry have already taxed the people and they have created school boards in as many as 19 districts and still other districts have been excluded. The old type *patsalas* have almost disappeared. The conditions of the new school brought into existence are extremely rotten. The teachers are ill-paid. Their remunerations are not even sufficient for their own subsistence, not to speak of their family members. Of course, dearness allowance has been granted but in this connection I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to one fact that the menial staff of some of the primary schools have not been granted dearness allowance.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: I want two minutes more, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Try to be brief, please.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Yes, Sir. In the statement of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, under the heading "Dearness Allowance", we find the following: "Earlier in the year, it had been decided to make special grants to primary and secondary non-Government schools to enable them to pay dearness allowance to their teachers and menial staff". But it has been brought to my notice that the District Inspector of Schools, Howrah, has informed the Secretary of the Municipality that the menials in primary schools are not entitled to the award of dearness allowance. What is the cause of this discrimination that the menial staff will not be entitled to dearness allowance whereas other staff will be allowed.

Then, Sir, as regards primary schools already established, the teachers and boys do not regularly attend the schools. These are schools only in name and on paper. But the inspecting authorities are always very keen about fulfilment of the conditions, viz., one bigha of land with a suitable building of a particular type and dimensions must be made over to the Board by a registered deed of gift. Then and then only they will be recognised as State schools. This is in a nut shell the condition of our primary education. It clearly shows that the Government is totally indifferent about the education of the masses.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 and in this connection I want to raise a discussion about the extension of the operation of Primary Education Act to other districts in spite of the admitted failure of the Act in districts where it has been in operation.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100, and I want to raise a discussion about the unsatisfactory manner in which the Scheduled Caste Education Fund is disbursed.

Sir, the Primary Education Act was intended to make primary education ultimately free and compulsory, to make education up to the primary standard available to every boy and girl in the province, and for this purpose the Legislature agreed to levy an additional educational cess, the major burden of which is being borne by the ordinary poor taxpayer. Sir, now that the Act has been in operation for about ten years, what do we find? Has the Act succeeded in making even an appreciable advance towards the object for which the Act was passed?

Sir, not only there has been no advance towards the expansion of primary education, there has been a definite set back, definite retrogression and primary education in rural areas has been in the melting pot. This has been due in part to some vital defects in the Act itself and in part to the manner in which the Act is being administered. Sir, in districts where the Primary Education Act has been in operation and district primary school boards have been set up, the entire foundation of primary education has been

undermined. In a large majority of these districts a large percentage of the *schools that receive aid from the district primary board exist on paper only—the localities concerned are not aware of the existence of any such schools.* And yet they manage to receive financial grant from the Board. Sir, in my own district there are supposed to exist about twelve hundred primary schools, but the number of Sub-Inspectors who are entrusted with the task of inspecting these schools are so small that it is physically impossible for them to visit the schools even once a year. I know, Sir, the position is similar almost in all other districts. This has helped unscrupulous people to adopt dishonest tactics and to draw grants for schools which actually do not exist.

Sir, even many of the schools which do exist do not sit regularly. The Inspecting Staff being quite insufficient, surprise visit by them has become almost out of question. Besides, the standard of education has very much deteriorated and in many of the schools no education worth the name is imparted. This has been principally due to the uneconomic wages paid to these school teachers. Their salary varies from ten rupees to sixteen rupees. Do you think any efficient teacher now-a-days can be available on this miserable pittance?

Sir, previously primary school teachers used to be inhabitants of the villages where the schools were situated. This enabled the teachers to work on small remuneration, for they could look after their own lands after school hours and could fully utilise other sources of income. But all this has now been changed with the introduction of Primary Education Act. The Board now insists on Guru-training passed teachers being employed in every school with the result that teachers have now to be brought from outside and their school remuneration has become their sole means of livelihood. Unless therefore the salary of the teacher is increased substantially the schools cannot be run even on the minimum standard. Sir, I know many of the schools have been without their principal teachers who have left for better job. The Board has been unable to find suitable substitutes in their places. Sir, many of the schools are in a chaotic condition and are maintaining a precarious existence.

Sir, the two gifts of the Primary Education Act have been the introduction of corruption and communalism in the sphere of educational institutions which have been hitherto free from these baneful influences. Sir, the inspecting staff knows that the school teacher cannot make his two ends meet with the few rupees that he gets as his salary. He, in consequence, finds it more helpful to connive at and permit many undesirable practices for a consideration. I have been told by some teachers themselves that they have to pay something regularly every month to the inspecting staff. Whoever would not pay runs the risk of recognition of the school being withheld or the monthly grant being stopped or its payment being delayed for months together. I met some teachers in Mymensingh who complained that for four months their salary has remained in arrears. The poor teacher therefore finds it more convenient to keep the inspecting staff satisfied and they in their turn neglect their schools which, in some cases, do not actually exist and in other cases do not have regular classes. This vicious practice must be rooted out if primary schools are to continue to serve the educational needs of the rural population properly.

Sir, all these are well known facts and Mr. Jenkins, the Director of Public Instruction, admitted that the Primary Education Act had failed and must be thoroughly overhauled. Sir, we were told that Mr. Bottomley had been placed on special duty for the purpose of ascertaining all that was happening with regard to primary education. Sir, we would like to know what report he had submitted and whether the Ministry has formulated any scheme for eradicating the evils that have been rampant in the sphere of primary education. Sir, as far as I remember, it was generally agreed that the further extension of the Primary Education Act to other districts would

be held up till a satisfactory solution of these problems has been arrived at. I do not know why the Act is being extended to two other districts in spite of the admitted failure of the primary education scheme and why these corruptions and malpractices are being allowed to infect two other districts where primary education is running smoothly under the old system free from the demoralising influences of the new system.

Sir, I would now like to refer to the unsatisfactory manner in which the Scheduled Caste Education Fund is disbursed. Sir, I think, first of all, the composition of the Scheduled Caste Education Board must be radically altered. At present membership of this Board is confined virtually to the scheduled caste members of the Assembly and the members who support the Ministry happen to be the fortunates in securing nomination to the Board—— (at this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech). I think this practice is not fair to the cause of scheduled caste education in the province. Political considerations should be kept aside and the Board should be composed mainly of noted educationists amongst the scheduled castes and amongst the members of the Assembly only those who can claim to have some outstanding contribution to the cause of education should be taken into the Board. Sir, the present practice has helped to create a very undesirable state of things, much to the detriment of scheduled caste education. The fund is being most unjustly exploited for political purposes. Unless a particular school authorities subscribe to the political views of certain Ministers they have little chance of securing financial grant. Schools are threatened with stoppage of their grants if the Secretary or the teachers of the school do not accept the political views of the scheduled caste Ministers. The Special Officer for Scheduled Caste Education is most improperly utilised for the purpose. I know that in course of their tours in the districts some of the Ministers take with them the Special Officer for scheduled caste education As the Ministerial tours are undertaken mainly for political propaganda, whatever might be their avowed object, the Special Officer has to play the game Financial grants are very often determined according to political consideration and not to the actual merits of the educational institution concerned——(at this stage the member again reached his time-limit).

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Lahiry, I have given you extra time and that time is also over.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRY: Sir, I will finish in a minute or two. This is a very important subject and I hope you will give me a little more time.

Mr. SPEAKER: But if you go on in this way asking for more time it becomes very difficult for me. You must try to compress your speech within the time allotted to you. I have already given you time but if you have something more to speak you can do so on some other occasion when you will have a chance. I think you need not speak any more now.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRY: Sir, this is a very important subject and I shall conclude my speech in a minute's time.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRY: Similarly stipends to students are being manipulated. I think if the Scheduled Caste Education Board is composed mainly of educationists, political consideration would cease to be the dominating factor in the disbursement of the Fund. I think, Sir, a definite rule should be laid down that the Special Officer should not take part in the political propaganda of the Hon'ble Ministers either openly or covertly and should not accompany the Ministers in their tours.

Sir, there is one other consideration——

Mr. SPEAKER: I have given you more than a minute again but you have not been able to finish your speech. I hope you will now resume your seat.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in the matter of general education in the typhoon and cyclone affected areas of Contai and Tamluk in Midnapore.

Mr Speaker, Sir, সাধারণত: কোন দেশ শাসন করতে হ'লে একটা গভর্ণমেণ্ট দরকার সে গভর্ণমেণ্ট এখানে আছে এবং সেটা অনেকটা লোকায়ত্ত হয়েছে বোলে আমরা শুনে থাকি। লোকায়ত্ত গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রধানতম দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী হচ্ছে সে দেশের অধিবাসীদের শিক্ষা বিষয়ে বিরাট পরিকল্পনা কোরে তাদের মনের অন্ধকার দূর করা। বর্তমানে আমাদের যে লোকায়ত্ত গভর্ণমেণ্ট আছে বোলে আমরা বলছি তাদের এ রকম কোন পরিকল্পনা আমরা দেখতে পাই না। এই বাংলা দেশের ৫॥ কোটি লোকের মধ্যে ১ কোটি লোকেরও শিক্ষা দিবার বিরাট পরিকল্পনা না হোক, ছোট-খাট রকমের কোন পরিকল্পনা তাঁরা যে করেছেন তা বুঝতে পারি না। এটা যেন একটা সাধারণভাবে চলে যাচ্ছে। আমি বেড়াতে চাই, ঘুরে ঘুরে বেড়াচ্ছি; আমি স্কুল করতে চাই, একটা স্কুল কোরে ইন্‌স্পেক্টরের বাড়ীতে ধন্না দিচ্ছি; চাল, ডাল তরীতরকারী অনেক কিছু উপস্থিত কোরে রাখছি, হয় হবে না হয় হবে না—এই ধরণের জিনিষ চলে আসছে আর গতানুগতিকভাবে কেবল শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী নয় সমস্ত মন্ত্রীই যেন কাজ কোরে চলে যাচ্ছেন। তাঁরা যে কোথাও আমাদের জন্য কিছু ক'রেছেন তা অনেক সময় দেখবার সুবিধা হয় না, পরিকল্পনা ত দূরের কথা। আমি আমার জেলা মেদিনীপুরের কথা বলছি। সেখানে একটা বিরাট cyclone এবং typhoon যাকে বলে সমুদ্র-বন্যা—সমুদ্র থেকে ৩৭।৪০ ফুট উঁচু ঢেউ এসে সমস্ত স্কুল, লোকের ঘর সব ভাসিয়ে নিয়ে গেল। সেখানকার স্কুলগুলিকে আবার পুনরুজ্জীবিত করবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে কোন পরিকল্পনা আজ পর্যন্ত হয় নি। অধিকন্তু লোকেরা যে সমস্ত স্কুল দিয়েছে তাদের সাহায্য না দেওয়াটাই যেন বর্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের একটা বিশেষ কর্তব্যের মধ্যে ধরে নেওয়া হয়েছে, আমি ২।১টা ঘটনা জানি। বহু কষ্টে লোকেরা না খেয়ে, বিলিফের চাল খেয়ে, ভিক্ষা কোরে স্কুল ঘর দাঁড় কোরিয়ে সেই স্কুলকে বাঁচাবার চেষ্টা ক'রেছে তার যা জিনিষপত্র চাই তা যাতে লাভ করতে পারে তার চেষ্টা ক'রেছে। আমি বুঝতে পারি না যে এত বড় typhoon, এত বড় cyclone যে জেলার উপর দিয়ে চলে গেল এবং তার শিক্ষায়তনগুলি নষ্ট হ'ল, সেই স্কুলগুলিকে বাঁচাতে হলে একটা পরিকল্পনা যে দরকার এবং সেটা গভর্ণমেণ্টের দায়িত্ব সেটা কেন তাঁরা করেন না। অবশ্য আমাদের দুর্ভাগ্য, আমরা সাধারণ লোকের ভোট নিয়ে এখানে এসেছি, আমাদের ভোট নিয়ে তাঁরা আবার মন্ত্রিত্ব পেয়ে গেছেন, সেই মন্ত্রীদের অধীনে কত টাকা এই শিক্ষা ব্যবস্থার জন্য দেওয়া হচ্ছে সেটা দেখা দরকার। গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি মনে করেন যে আরও বেশী টাকার দরকার তাহলে ট্যাক্স কোরে বা India Governmentএর কাছ থেকে ধার কোরে বা চেয়ে এনে একটা পরিকল্পনা স্থির কোরে দেশের মধ্যে শিক্ষায়তনগুলিকে পুনরুজ্জীবিত করা আর সেগুলো ভালভাবে চালান সম্বন্ধে কোন পরিকল্পনা গভর্ণমেণ্টের না থাকলে সেটা বড়ই পরিতাপের বিষয় হবে।

আমার বন্ধু বোকাইনগরী সাহেব বলেছেন যে সকলের পক্ষেই বেতন নির্দিষ্ট করা আছে, কিন্তু দরিদ্র শিক্ষক—যাদের নাকি জাতি গঠন করতে হয় তাদের জন্য কোন নির্দিষ্ট বেতনের ব্যবস্থা নাই। এটা অতি সত্য কথা এবং আমি একান্তমনে তাঁর কথা সমর্থন করছি। বাস্তবিক দুঃখের কথা যে ১ প্যাকেট সিগারেটের যে দাম—১৲ টাকা বা ১॥৵ টাকা—এক-একটা প্রাইমারী স্কুলে grant দেওয়া হয়; এর চেয়ে লজ্জার বিষয় লোকায়ত্ত গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে আর কিছুই হ'তে পারে না। সেই জিনিষটাকে যে বাঁচিয়ে রাখা হয়েছে সে ইন্‌স্পেক্টর সাহেবরা বাঁচিয়ে রেখেছেন, গভর্ণমেণ্টের একটা পরিকল্পনার অন্তর্গত হয়ে সেটা বেঁচে আছে ব'লে আমি জানি না। আমরা সুদূর পল্লীতে বাস করি। সেই পল্লীর অধিবাসীরা অনুভব করতে পারে না যে গভর্ণমেণ্টের একটা পরিকল্পনা সেখানে গিয়ে উপস্থিত হয়েছে যাতে নাকি সাধারণ লোক লেখাপড়া শেখে। অনেকে বলবেন একটা tax হয়েছে সেই ট্যাক্সের দ্বারা স্কুল করবার চেষ্টা হচ্ছে। আমি ২৪-পরগণার একজন প্রজা; আমি জানি endowment দিয়ে স্কুল স্থাপন কোরে দেওয়া হয়েছে কিন্তু সেই স্কুলকে কোন সাহায্য এখনও দিতে পারেন নি। এই রকম একটা স্কুলের আমি একজন ট্রাষ্টি। আমি একবার চেষ্টা করেছিলাম কিন্তু আমি শুনেছিলাম যে এক বৎসরের টাকা যদি দিতে পারা যায় তাহলে সেই স্কুলের grant হ'তে পারে অর্থাৎ পৃথক

আর যেটা সেটা কারও পকেট থেকে আগে বার ক'রে দিতে হবে, নচেৎ সেই স্কুলের grant পাওয়া কোন সম্ভাবনা নাই। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কাছে অনুরোধ করি--তিনি একবার চিন্তা করে দেখবেন যে দরিদ্র বেদিনীপুর যেটা বন্যায় বিধ্বস্ত হয়ে গেছে তার শিক্ষার জন্য কোন পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ সম্ভব কি না এবং তিনি তাতে রাজী আছেন কি না।

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you going to move your Motion No 127?

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Yes, Sir. I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37--Education--General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about policy of the Government in the matter of withholding grants to schools and the P. K. College of Contai, district Midnapore কাঁথি সাবডিভিসনে প্রায় ৭।৮ লাখ লোক বাস করে। সেখানে P. K কলেজ হয়েছিল এক ভদ্রলোকের ৫০ হাজার টাকা দানে এবং বিরাট সম্পত্তি কলেজের জন্যও দিয়াছেন। গত movement এর সময়--আমি জানি না কেননা আমি আগেই জেলে গিয়েছি--কিন্তু ছেলে নাকি আন্দোলনে যোগদান করেছিল, সেইজন্য তার grant-in-aid কেটে দেওয়া হয়েছে এবং আজ পর্যন্ত দেওয়া হয়নি। আমি জেল থেকে এ সম্বন্ধে প্রশ্ন করেছিলাম, মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যে উত্তর দিয়াছিলেন তা অত্যন্ত লজ্জার বিষয়। তিনি বলবেন ডিষ্ট্রিক্ট ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট চান না যে ঐ কলেজে grant-in-aid দেওয়া হয়। আমি জানতে চাই একটা কলেজে বহু ছেলে যেখানে শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে একটি ভদ্রলোকের দানের দ্বারা সে কলেজ এই কারণে কেন গভর্নমেন্ট সাহায্য থেকে বঞ্চিত হবে? বাংলা দেশের কেন ভারতের বহু ছাত্র ঐ আন্দোলনে যোগ দিয়েছিল। বাংলার সমস্ত কলেজকে কি penalise করা হয়েছে, না কাঁথির ঐ একটি কলেজকে penalise করা হয়েছে? যদিও কিছু ছাত্র আন্দোলনে যোগ দিয়াছিল কিন্তু কলেজ all along চলেছে, এখনও চলছে, কিন্তু ঐ কারণে সাহায্য থেকে বঞ্চিত হওয়ায় আমার কাছে রহস্যজনক ব্যাপার বোলে মনে হয়। মন্ত্রী মহাশয় শিক্ষার আস্বাদ পেয়েছেন। এই দরিদ্র এবং বন্যা-বিধ্বস্ত জেলা যার জন্য সব চেয়ে বেশী সাহায্য গভর্নমেন্টের দেওয়া দরকার সেখানে grant in aid বন্ধ করে রাখবেন এই কারণে যে জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট চান না যে সেই কলেজকে সাহায্য দেওয়া হয়। এতে এই কথাই জিজ্ঞাসা করি যে ডিষ্ট্রিক্ট ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট জেলার কর্তা না এডুকেশন মিনিষ্টার কর্তা। দয়া করে বিশেষ বিবেচনা করে সেখানে উত্তরটা দেবেন।

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is in no spirit of opposition but undoubtedly in a spirit of criticism that I am going to move this motion. I beg to move that the demand of Rs 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37- Education General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on small and insufficient grant of dearness allowance to the teachers of the non-Government primary and secondary schools.

Sir, I take it that Government is aware of the extreme hardship of the teachers of the non-Government schools and, because it is aware of it, I take it again that it provided in the current year's budget for a sum of Rs. 57 lakhs, as stated in the budget, for granting dearness allowance to the teachers of non-Government schools. When worked out that means Rs. 5 per teacher per month. I put this simple question whether by paying a dearness allowance of Rs 5 per month Government really believe that it is in any way alleviating the present hardship of these teachers? That is a simple question and I hope Government will be pleased to answer it in a straightforward manner. Such a pittance has not been granted even to a menial in the Government service.

Sir, if we look at the Bengal Education Budget, we shall see that it presents a picture of snail's progress. Since the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms we have been hearing a lot about nation-building but the progress that has been made by the Education Budget is nothing in comparison with the progress that has been made by other departmental budgets such as "Police". Sir, from the Red Book, it will be seen that in the year 1941-42, we spent Rs. 1,64,34,000 under head "Education" and if we deduct the amount that is now being paid on account of dearness allowance our educational budget will come up to a little over Rs. 2 crores

only. That is, in all these years our education budget has advanced by only 33 or 34 lakhs of rupees and no more. But if we turn to the Police Budget, we shall find that the Police Budget has progressed from Rs. 2,49,46,000, i.e., roughly Rs. 2½ crores in 1941-42 to Rs. 3,39,57,000, i.e., roughly Rs. 3,40,00,000 this time. That means an increase of about Rs. 90 lakhs. The Police Budget has advanced by Rs. 90 lakhs whereas the Education Budget in all these years has advanced by Rs. 33 or 34 lakhs. That is how we have tried all these years to remove ignorance and improve education, and Sir, the Government propose not to add to the recurring part of our Education Budget. A non-recurring provision of Rs. 57 lakhs has been added this year for the grant of dearness allowance and the amount is going to be repeated for the next year also.

Now, Sir, let us see how other provinces are progressing in the matter of education. If you turn to Bombay, which is miles behind Bengal so far as secondary education is concerned, you will find that the Bombay education budget during these years has made tremendous progress. Sir, in 1938-39, expenditure on education in Bombay was Rs. 1,90,00,000 and for 1944-45 Rs. 2,33,00,000 was budgeted under head "Education". Sir, what is the Police expenditure in Bombay? It was estimated at Rs. 2,35,00,000 only for 1944-45. That is, Sir, expenditure on police and expenditure on education were almost on a par in Bombay. But in our unfortunate province it is Police expenditure which has advanced by Rs. 90 lakhs between 1941-42 and this year, whereas expenditure on education has advanced only by Rs. 33 or 34 lakhs.

Sir, we hear much tall talk about rehabilitation, but I put another straight question to this House, namely, what does rehabilitation or reconstruction mean? Does it mean simply elimination of want or also elimination of ignorance? If it does mean elimination of ignorance also, then, Sir, there is no indication in our budget that we are at all anxious to remove ignorance in this province. Not the faintest idea of rehabilitation and reconstruction in the educational sphere you will find in the budget before us. I am pointing out these things just to meet the possible argument where is the money to come from for more dearness allowance for the teachers. May I, Sir, put a counter question? Where has the money come from so far as the larger police expenditure is concerned? Then again, since 1941-42, our revenue has expanded from Rs 1,494 lakhs, i.e , about 15 crores to about Rs. 29 crores, i.e., to nearly double the amount, but during all these years we have not been able to increase our education budget even by 50 per cent. That has got to be admitted and it is surely a matter of great regret; and I put it to the Hon'ble Minister whether he is really justifying his position as Minister by producing such a budget? If he is anxious to justify his position, he ought to try to relieve at least the dire distress of the school teachers in such difficult times by getting more money provided for granting higher dearness allowance to them.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (1) the Scheduled Caste Education Fund, (2) the Scheduled Caste Education Committee, (3) raising the amount of the Scheduled Caste Education Fund to Rs. 10,00,000 per year, and (4) Scheduled Caste education policy of the Government.

First of all, I shall take up the Government policy so far as Scheduled Caste education is concerned. I wish, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister for Education should pay some more attention to what I am going to say just now. As regards the Government policy on Schedule Caste education, I would like to say, Sir, that Government is quite apathetic and not in the least sympathetic towards Scheduled Caste education of the Province. What I am saying you will easily understand, Sir, if you are considering it from the point of view of the population of the Scheduled Caste people in Bengal which is practically speaking 12,000,000, that is to say 1/5th of

the total population. Considering this vast population of the Scheduled Caste people in Bengal and considering also the paltry amount that the Government is going to spend next year for their education, namely, Rs. 5,00,000, it will be seen that Government will be spending about 5 pice per head per year. Now, Sir, if that be the case, I submit, Sir, that the Government is really apathetic towards the Scheduled Caste education.

There is another point of view. Government is spending for Anglo-Indian and European education practically speaking Rs. 11,27,000 or something like that. According to this amount which the Government is going to spend for Anglo-Indian and European education, the *per capita* grant comes to Rs. 1-3 per head. The population of the Anglo-Indian and European people in Bengal is much lower than that of the Scheduled Castes people, and in spite of that the Government is spending higher amounts for the former than the latter community. I would only point out that the Government in order to do justice to the Scheduled Castes people should augment the amount allotted for the Scheduled Castes Education. As I have already stated I wish that the grant should be augmented from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs, even though the latter figure would be still quite small and inadequate for the purpose.

As regards the said policy I should say that the Government has not got the slightest intention to really improve the education so far as the Scheduled Caste people are concerned, what they actually intend to do is that, by showing Rs. 5,00,000 in the Scheduled Castes education fund, they want to keep their party Scheduled Castes members in their side. The Scheduled Caste members on the other side of this House are happy that Government is going to spend about Rs. 5 lakhs every year. That is the only thing on their part to be jubilant over so far as I can see.

With regard to the Scheduled Castes Education Committee I should like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister through you, Sir, that most of the members, who are in the committee are there continuously from the very beginning, i.e., from the very inception of the committee. Government is not giving any chance to the other members of this House who are interested in Scheduled Castes education.

Another thing I want to bring before the House is that the Scheduled Castes Education Fund is being spent at random. The Government does not realise that the fund should be spent district by district according to the population of Scheduled Castes people in each district. At present the Government does not do that.

Another thing to which I want to draw the pointed attention of the Government is this. The Government has made provision in respect of stipends for a much smaller amount in the coming year. The amount spent under this head in the year 1944-45 was Rs. 2,03,000 whereas the provision made for stipends in the coming year is only Rs. 1,94,000. This amount should be increased more than the level of the current year's figure.

As regards hostels I hold very strongly that the Government should not spend a farthing on construction of hostels. That amount is practically wasted. The Government would do well to spend that money on scholarships, stipends and for making arrangements in existing hostels. With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about insufficient grant in Sanskrit education and *tol*.

I would only quote the figures allotted for Madrasas and Sanskrit *tols* for comparison. The sum allotted to Madrasahs for Muslims who form 56 per cent. of the population is Rs. 5,68,838 whereas the sum allotted to Sanskrit *tols* for the oriental education of Hindus who form 45 per cent. of the population is only Rs. 54,000. The figures speak for themselves and

to how to teach English. But, Sir, there is a proposal to abolish these training centres. I urge upon the Government that until a better system is introduced these training centres should be continued till all the primary school teachers are fully trained.

Sir, so far as the secondary education is concerned there also the fund provided is inadequate. In this connection I should like to refer to special schools. One of my friends has raised the point that the money provided for the special schools for Muslims is much larger than what has been provided for tols and other Sanskrit institutions. There are junior and high Madrassahs which are just of the standard of middle and high English schools and are not counterpart or prototype of the Sanskrit tols. The money that is provided for the madrassahs is not in any way commensurate with the necessity of the Muslim community. Last year I saw the budget provided five lakhs for grant to special schools, namely, the Senior, the high and the junior madrassahs. I hope this will be repeated and I urge upon the Government to increase the grant under the head.

So far as the grants to secondary schools are concerned they have been increased by Rs. 5 lakhs and probably that is in accordance with the proposal that the Government have formulated that they will go on increasing the grant by five lakhs each year for the advancement of secondary education till it reaches the figure of forty lakhs.

Lastly, Sir, I want to make a reference to the statement of my friend, Mr. Ashutosh Lahiry, that the operation of the Primary Education Act is a failure but from my personal knowledge of the operation of the Primary Education Act in Mymensingh I contradict that statement——(at this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech). Sir, in the year 1937 the number of boys and girls who appeared at the primary school final examination was 6,000 and this year it has gone up to 20,000 and if there were no famine, disease and other things intervening, our students would have gone up to 40,000. So it is not at all a failure but the scheme is going on successfully

Mr. Mal said that the pay of the primary teachers in Midnapore is Rs. 14 because primary education scheme has not been introduced. If the primary education scheme had been introduced then the pay of the teachers could not have been less than Rs. 15-8 because they are paid from the District School Fund wherein cess and Government revenue are involved.

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall speak generally with special reference to teachers and a few observations about policy. The number and variety of the cut motions before us show that if we had the time to discuss them properly we could produce a notable debate. We can satisfy ourselves on this that year after year the number and variety of these cuts do have its effect on Government and little by little the budget goes up. The budget is large if we compare it with what it has been; it is small if we compare it with what, we hope, it will be; and I agree with every critic that the provision is inadequate because provision for education must always be inadequate in any country.

Several of the cut motions refer to policy. Policy is a vague word hard to define and we cannot begin to define it in five minutes speeches, but in education it is policy, good policy, fundamental policy to get schools put up, to get children to the schools, to get teachers for the children. It does not matter whether this is brought about by legislation, by administration, by persuasion or by any other manner. The essence of education is to get the children, the schools and the teachers.

A reference has been made frequently in this House to the want of policy in legislation. May I remind the House that King Solomon was a great thinker about education and he said about wisdom and the getting of it by ways and ways of pleasantness and of peace. I frequently think of those words and then I find myself thinking also by association of ideas,

through contrasts of the discussions we had for some years and I suppose which will resume on the Secondary Education Bill. Its ways are not ways of pleasantness or of peace and yet even so meek and mild a legislator as myself can rejoice that education has produced such spirit, such emotion, such excitement—may I even go so far—such anger. There is more promise in that spirit, in those emotions than in the placid acquiescence with which we do a great deal of our work.

There is a ferment about education in many countries. In my own they had not long ago a very remarkable White Paper and they have since had an Education Act which is about to be operated which carries the conception of education as a social force and a civic right much further than present practice. In India we have had our White Paper which we call the Sargent Report but which is the work of some 30 men, I think, of whom 7 or 8 came from this province. They have put before the country what I consider a remarkable scheme and if the country adopts it for the next few years the idea about what is necessary and about what can be done will be considerably changed. I cannot go into details in the small time allotted to me, but that report deals with education in every phase, shows what is necessary, shows how it can be done and finally it calls upon the country to find at the end of 40 years 277 crores of rupees a year for education in all its phases. That figure would be a terrible figure, a shocking figure a few years ago but we have lost all capacity of being shocked by large figures nowadays. The scheme put forward in that report depends entirely upon the teachers. Can we find competent teachers, teachers enough, teachers good enough, teachers rewarded enough, to be enabled to build this great system of education, teachers in every phase—in primary schools, in middle schools, in high schools, in technical schools, in colleges and universities. May I ask you to give a little attention occasionally to this document which I consider one of the most remarkable things that has appeared in India in the last 20 or 30 years? (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Which is duly dissented by the Education Minister.)

May I say about the teacher, Sir, that we should regard him not as a passer-on of a piece of information and knowledge but as a builder of a new social system. That is his place in our scheme of things. He is the maker of social force and social capacity and education itself is the largest shaper of social capacity that we have. I believe that thinkers are generally agreed that the four great influences that make life are the influences of our daily life, education, religion and what we read we can put that in any order we like.

I should like to make one suggestion here for the help of teachers. In England the work of teachers has been greatly facilitated by a remarkable book called "Suggestions for the consideration of teachers". That had had such influence that three times it had to be rewritten because itself it put practice out of date. Could we not have something here like that to help our teachers? We can give our teachers a little help. If we can get chapters written on the teaching of History, of Geography, of Languages, of Mathematics, by experts who are also experts in school management and the needs of schools, then I think we can do a great deal to raise the standard of our work here. I make this suggestion to the Hon'ble Minister and to the Director of Public Instruction and I am sure it can be done.

I would express my satisfaction, the satisfaction of this party that it was found possible last year to give certain grants to teachers and we are glad that they are being continued and we trust they will be continued for ever, not as compassionate allowances but as something fairly earned by fine work and I trust they will not only be continued but will also be largely increased.

One last thought and this is a consideration that is seldom noticed. There is one other aspect from which we can look at the teacher's work.

As you know, women in Scotland are the repositories of sagacity, and it was an old Scotch woman who once made a very fruitful remark. She said: "If you haven't any education you have simply got to use your brains." (Laughter.) In that there is profound psychological truth. Psychologists nowadays are busy in assessing what an exhaustive strain it is on the uneducated to have to use their brains as they come across the little emergencies of daily life. We in this Assembly who have had the benefit of a good education and thereby are exempted from the daily necessity of using our brains may perhaps add this also to the credit of those who have taught us and those who are teaching us today; and we may occasionally from our seats in this institution give a salutation to our hard working teachers. (Applause.)

Mr. SHAH SYED GHOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, গভর্ণমেণ্ট শিক্ষাবিভাগ প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার, বিশেষতঃ প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকদের, প্রতি বড়ই অমনোযোগী। মৌলভী আবদুল ওয়াহেদ বোকাইনগরী প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকদের দুরবস্থার সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ কোরে বলেছেন। আমি তাঁর প্রত্যেকটি উক্তি সমর্থন করি। প্রাইমারী শিক্ষাকে compulsory করা দরকার সে বিষয়ে মিঃ হরেন্দ্র কুমার সুর বলেছেন। আমি তাঁহার প্রত্যেকটি উক্তি অনুমোদন করি। স্যার, দেশের Secondary education, College education যদি উন্নত করতে হয় তবে গোড়ার প্রাইমারী এডুকেশনকে বিশেষভাবে সুনিয়ন্ত্রিত করতে হবে তাহলে উচ্চ শিক্ষা দ্রুত বিস্তারলাভ করতে পারবে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট অন্যান্য ছোট বড় ডিপার্টমেণ্টের সাধারণ সমস্ত কর্ম্মচারীদের এই যুদ্ধের সময় যে রকমভাবে ভাতার বন্দোবস্ত কোরেছেন কিন্তু দরিদ্র প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকদের জন্য কিছুই করেন নাই। তাতে বলতে হয় যে দুর্ভাগা বাংলা দেশের যে এখানকার প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকদের প্রতি গভর্ণমেণ্টের ও শিক্ষা বিভাগের এত অমনোযোগ, এত অবহেলা কখনও সমর্থনযোগ্য নহে। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী তমিজুদ্দিন খাঁন সাহেবের দৃষ্টি এ বিষয়ের প্রতি আকর্ষণ করছি। আশা করি শিক্ষা বিভাগ সত্বর প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকদের অভাব-অভিযোগের দাবী পূরণ করবেন। স্যার! প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা বিস্তারের পথে আর একটা অন্তরায় উপস্থিত। আমি নোয়াখালি জেলার ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট স্কুল বোর্ডের মেম্বর আছি। আমি জানি ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট স্কুল বোর্ড একটা স্বতন্ত্র autonomous body, প্রাদেশিক গভর্ণমেণ্টের অধীনে পরিচালিত হয়। প্রাদেশিক সরকার ব্যতীত শিক্ষা বিভাগের কর্ম্মচারিবৃন্দ বোর্ডের উপর কর্তৃত্ব করিতে পারে না। স্যার! আমি আপনার যোগে মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে জানাতে চাই যে D. P. I সার্কুলার দ্বারায় District School Board এর ক্ষমতা বাজেয়াপ্ত করায় Board প্রয়োজনমত প্রাইমারী স্কুল মঞ্জুর করিতে পারে না, তদ্দক্ষণ যে ব্যাপার দাঁড়িয়েছে তাহা এই নোয়াখালী ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট স্কুল বোর্ড। প্রয়োজনমত কোন স্কুলের ব্যবস্থা যদি করতে চান তখনই স্কুল বোর্ডের সেক্রেটারী D. P. I. এর সার্কুলারের দোহাই দিয়ে বলেন যে D. P. I. এর sanction ব্যতীত কোন additional school হইতে পারবে না। আপনারা স্কুল থেকে resolution কোরে D. P. I এর কাছে যদি পাঠান এবং D. P. I যদি সেটা sanction দেন তাহলেই বোর্ড স্কুল দিতে পারবে। স্যার! আপনার যোগে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে D. P. I র Circular সম্পর্কে তিনি জ্ঞাত আছেন কি না? মিঃ তমিজুদ্দিন খাঁকে বলতে চাই যে ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট স্কুল বোর্ড একটা স্বতন্ত্র autonomous body হওয়া সত্ত্বেও গভর্ণমেণ্টের অজানামতে শিক্ষা বিভাগের Head of the Department—Director of Public Instruction নিজের উচ্চতামত প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার ত্রুটি চেপে ধরার উদ্দেশ্যে অন্যায় মতে বোর্ডের মতের উপর নিজের discretion use করেন তাহলে সেই বোর্ডের মর্য্যাদা স্বাধীনতা অক্ষুণ্ণ থাকতে কখনও পারে না এবং সেই বোর্ডের মেম্বরগণ কখন দেশের শিক্ষা ব্যবস্থার উন্নতি করতে পারেন না। এবং জেলায় প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা কখনও প্রসার হতে পারে না। এই অবস্থায় আমি মাননীয় শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী মৌলভী তমিজুদ্দিন খাঁর দৃষ্টি D. P. I এর সার্কুলারের প্রতি আকর্ষণ করছি। District School Board একটা স্বতন্ত্র autonomous body উহার মর্য্যাদা রক্ষাক্রমে D. P. I Circular অনতিবিলম্বে withdraw করা হউক। নোয়াখালী ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট স্কুল বোর্ডের প্রথম Official Chairman ছিলেন ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট এবং District Inspector of Schools ছিলেন সেক্রেটারী। বর্ত্তমানে Official Chairmanship পরিবর্ত্তে Non-Official Chairman নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন। কিন্তু District Inspector of Schools এখনও Secretary আছেন ইহাতে গণতন্ত্র ও আমলাতন্ত্রে কখনও কখনও ভয়ানক সংঘর্ষ উপস্থিত হয় তাতে প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা suffer করে থাকে। আমি বলতে চাই যে autonomous Board এর সেক্রেটারী যদি একজন Official হন তাহলে সেখানে সেই bureaucratic মনোভাবের—যেটাকে আমরা অত্যন্ত ঘৃণা করি—সেই আমলা-তান্ত্রিক মনোভাবের প্রাধান্য উপস্থিত হয়। সেই আমলাতান্ত্রিক মনোভাবের প্রাধান্যের দরুণ দেশের প্রত্যেক কাজে যেমন

বাধা সৃষ্টি হয় তেমনি ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট স্কুল বোর্ডেও বাধা-বিঘ্নের সৃষ্টি হয়ে দেশে প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা বিস্তারের পথে বহু অন্তরায় উপস্থিত হয়ে থাকে।

স্যার! আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি আর একটি বিষয়ের প্রতি আকর্ষণ করছি। সেটি মুসলমানের ধর্ম্মশিক্ষা। প্রত্যেক মুসলমানের ছেলে-মেয়ের নামাজ, রোজা এবং শরীয়তে নির্দ্দিষ্ট মসলা-মসায়েলের বিধান জানা দরকার। তাহাদের কতকগুলি prayer compulsory. যদি প্রাইমারী স্কুলে ছেলে-মেয়েদের সেই পবিত্র কোরআন পড়ার বন্দোবস্ত না হয় তাহলে মুসলমান ছেলে-মেয়ে গোড়া থেকে ধর্ম্মশিক্ষা হতে বঞ্চিত থাকবে এবং ধর্ম্মশিক্ষা না পেলে তাদের নিকট ইসলামিক আচার-ব্যবহার সভ্যতা ও সংস্কৃতি কিছুই আশা করা যাবে না। ধর্ম্মশিক্ষা-বর্জ্জিত কোন শিক্ষা মুসলমান তাহার ছেলে-মেয়েদিগকে দিতে নারাজ। এইজন্য প্রত্যেক প্রাইমারী স্কুলে কোরআন শিক্ষা, দিনিয়াত শিক্ষার বিশেষ বন্দোবস্ত রাখতেই হবে, এই বিষয়ে অবহেলা করলে চলবে না।

Mrs. NELLIE SEN GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no intention of speaking this afternoon, but I feel I must put the case of Chittagong before the Ministry.

Sir, Chittagong has suffered more than any other place. At the time when Chittagong was declared a non-family area, every school was closed. Even now every big building is taken over by the military. After months pressure, the primary schools were started again but what is the condition of the teachers, Sir? With their dearness allowance their pay does not come up to the amount it did before the war. Mr. Wordsworth has said: "Can we get teachers?" Yes, we can get teachers if we pay them, but what is the condition of these teachers now? They have to worry about how to maintain their families, whether they have got enough to eat. They have to rush from place to place for private tuition as it is called. Sometimes they are tired even before they begin to teach. The primary schools that I know a lot about is simply packed. Every school room, every class room has two classes; the verandah has also classes. What is going to happen when the Chittagong rains commence. It will not be possible for any children to sit in that verandah. They are now asked to take in middle English pupils. Teachers have been engaged, but where are they going to sit? There is no room for them to sit or even to stand.

Then again I want to complain about the delay in replying to school matters. There is a school in Suchia, Chittagong, started about 3 years ago. For some reason this school was allowed to start. Now everybody—it is not just my opinion, it is the opinion of every official who goes there—thinks that school is not fit to be called a school. It has no furniture; it has no proper teachers, it has nothing which can entitle it to be run as a school. For three years, I have been trying to get the matter settled. Last October I wrote about this matter. I was told that the papers had not come to the hands of the man concerned. Evidently he was calling for them, and they are taking a long time to come; although I have written again I have had no reply to this matter as yet. I do feel that this matter should be looked into at once. One school is being spoilt simply because another school is about to be run without any proper facilities. I am told, and it is true, that the municipality is running the schools in Chittagong, but I may remind the Government that they have already taken over the municipality. Surely, if they press that these teachers should be given a decent wage, something will be done. This is all that I have to say. (Applause.)

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Sir, at the outset, I apologise to the House that I am going to take a few minutes of its valuable time to deal with the subject concerning a particular section of the people. The matter concerns a particular section of the people no doubt but that particular section forms no less than 1/5th of the whole population of the province and they are the worst sufferers in the sphere of education. Sir, first I like to say about the grievances and difficulties of the Scheduled Castes in the matter of their primary education. For the advancement of the primary education of the province Government has kindly taken a move

in the direction. Out of the 26 districts of the province in 20 districts free primary education has been introduced and accordingly district school boards were formed to take up the charge. We cherished a high hope that with the introduction of Free Primary Education in the districts the Scheduled Castes would have better facilities for their education. But the result is quite contrary to our expectation. The district school boards took up the charge of the primary education of the districts. Most of the primary schools which had been functioning from before in the Scheduled Caste localities were shifted to non-Scheduled Caste areas. And most of the Scheduled Caste teachers who had been teaching in the Scheduled Caste schools were transferred to non-Scheduled Caste areas and non-Scheduled Caste teachers who have little sympathy for the Scheduled Caste boys were thrust upon the Scheduled Caste institutions causing great disadvantages and difficulties to the primary education of the Scheduled Castes. Sites of new institutions were selected but many of the Scheduled Caste areas were left neglected, as there was nobody to support their cases before the board. If this sort of injustice is allowed to continue I am afraid, the primary education of the Scheduled Castes who are already backward in the sphere of education will be of no use to them. I would request the Government to look into the affairs and arrange for the relief of these difficulties and disadvantages. The reply which I have been expecting from the Government is that they have no hand in the matter as the district school boards are autonomous bodies. They are all in all regarding the administration of primary education. Government may say so in reply. But it must be admitted that the Government is the superior controlling authority over these bodies and they can very well issue instructions to those bodies for the redress of all these grievances of these illiterate and neglected section who comprise more than 1 1/5th of the whole population. Until and unless these difficulties are removed primary education of the Scheduled Castes would be a mere farce. Another difficulty is the extreme poverty of the Scheduled Castes and this seriously stands in the way of their education. Provision has been made though very small for the payment of the teachers no doubt but there has been no provision for the house, furniture or for any help of the boys reading in those institutions. Charges for these are generally left to the people of the locality and the Scheduled Castes who are very poor cannot always respond to the requirements of the district school board and as a result many Scheduled Caste areas are to go without primary institutions—their boys having no facilities for primary education. If the Government do not come forward with help the primary education of the Scheduled Castes will suffer a great deal.

Now I come to the secondary and higher education of the Scheduled Castes. The Government have provided 5 lakhs for it for the next year. The amount of 5 lakhs for the education of the Scheduled Castes is quite inadequate no doubt. The Government is going to spend Rs. 2,64,25,000 for the general education of the province out of which 5 lakhs have been allotted to the share of the education of Scheduled Castes who form more than 1/5th of the whole population. With the exception of the 5 lakhs the Scheduled Castes have little access to the balance of the amount. The mathematical calculation itself clearly shows the inadequacy of the amount for such a big section of people. So also its inadequacy is keenly felt in the actual field. The Scheduled Caste institutions both M. E. and H. E. Schools are very poorly helped. Rs. 25 a month is nothing in these days and Rs. 3 as monthly stipend to a boy is of very little use to him in this crisis time; on the other hand many deserving Scheduled Caste students are to go without any help for paucity of funds. Sir, in addition to this we have serious grievances against the distribution of this fund. There has been a Scheduled Caste Committee to advise the Government from time to time for the education of the Scheduled Caste boys and girls. The Committee sits from time to time and submits its recommendations and advice to Government in the form of resolutions in the matter of education

of their students. It has prepared a scheme and submitted to the Government for its acceptance but the Government act on their own whims with utter disregard to the advice of this Committee and the scheme prepared by them. Five lakhs have been provided by the Government but arrangement has been made by them to spend only Rs. 3,95,000. Another anomaly has been systematically found in the matter of distribution of stipends to the students and grants-in-aid to the Scheduled Caste institutions out of this fund. The year ends but the recipients of these stipends cannot receive their help in time with the result that many of the students in the meantime are to give up their studies and many Scheduled Caste institutions are to close their doors for want of help. This is entirely due to the negligence of the officers concerned. Unless these officers are set right more than 5 lakhs grant even will be of little use to their education. From the last experience I am led to believe that the increase in the number of Scheduled Caste officers in the department will be the only solution of this problem. Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to these grievances and anomalies in the matter of the education of the Scheduled Castes. I hope Government will be good enough to look into it and take proper steps to remedy these serious defects.

Maulvi IDRIS AHMAD MIA : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়! আমাদের বালদহ জেলা এক রকম তপশীলভুক্ত জেলা। এ জেলা আগে বিহারের অধীন ছিল, অনেক বছর আগে এটা বাংলায় আনা হয়েছে। এটা একটা ছোট জেলা, এখানকার কেহ মন্ত্রীও নাই এবং কখন হবেও না। এমন কি পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারীও নাই। আমাদের কারও গভর্ণমেণ্টের কোন বড় অফিসার, ডিরেক্টর, এসিষ্টাণ্ট ডিরেক্টর বা কোন ইন্সপেক্টর হওয়ার chance নাই, কেন না, এটা অত্যন্ত পশ্চাৎপদ জেলা। ১৯৩১ সালে গভর্ণমেণ্টের গণনা অনুসারে ইহাতে মাত্র শতকরা ৩.৮ জন শিক্ষিত ছিল। ১৯৪০ সালের census এ লেখাপড়া জানা লোকের সংখ্যা হবে শতকরা ৬ জন। তাহলে বাংলায় যত জেলা আছে--তার মধ্যে এটা এখনও পিছনে।

Mr. MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ : পচা জেলা।

Maulvi IDRIS AHMAD MIA : এটা পচা জেলা নিশ্চয়ই, কারণ চুরি ডাকাতী কোরে টাকা পয়সা নিয়ে যেতে পারেনি। যত টাকা পয়সা ফজলুল হক মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে বরিশাল, আর বর্তমান মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে ঢাকা নিয়ে যাচ্ছে। সুতরাং আমাদের এটা জংলা পচা জায়গা থেকেই যাবে। আমাদের এই জেলা পচা জেলা একথা বন্ধুবর মোজাম্মেল হক সাহেব বলেছেন। বাস্তবিকই এটা দুর্গন্ধময় পচা জেলা। কিন্তু একে দুর্গন্ধময় পচা জেলা কোরে রেখেছেন আমাদের বর্তমান বন্ধুরা যাঁরা গভর্ণমেণ্ট হাতে নিয়েছেন (cheers from opposition benches)। কি জন্য? একটা কথা বলতে চাই। যে জেলা এত পশ্চাৎপদ জেলা সেখানে বহু পূর্বেই প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা আইন প্রচার করা উচিত ছিল। কিন্তু অল্পদিন মাত্র এই অর্ডার হয়েছে এবং সেই অর্ডার অনুযায়ী কাজ হ'তে কতদিন যে যাবে তার আর ইয়ত্তা নাই। এখানে যদিও প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা আইন প্রচার করা হয়েছে কিন্তু করাতে কি লাভ হবে? কারণ এখানে ১২ লক্ষ লোক অথচ একটি মাত্র training school আছে। আমি শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রীর হুকুম নিয়ে ১৯৪০ সালে একটি ট্রেণিং স্কুল খুলেছি। সেখান থেকে প্রতিবারে বহু ছাত্র পাশ কোরে আসছে। কিন্তু আমার দুঃখ এই যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট দয়া কোরে সেখানে এককালীন সাহায্য দিয়েছেন মাত্র ৪০০৲ টাকা আর বৃত্তি দিয়েছেন ২৯৪৲ টাকা (cries of "shame", "shame" from opposition benches)। এজন্য একটু ধন্যবাদ না দিয়া পারি না। গভর্ণমেণ্টের একজন অফিসার খাঁ বাহাদুর আবদুর রহমান সাহেব কিছুদিন আগে গিয়ে বলে এসেছেন--"I wonder how it is possible to run this school without stipend, and yet it passed 18 out of 23 students." আমাদের ওখানে ২৩টি ছেলে গিয়ে ১৮টি পাশ হ'ল আর গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্কুল থেকে ৭৮টি ছেলের মধ্যে পাশ হল ২৮টি। ২৮টি ছেলের জন্য ৯॥ হাজার টাকা খরচ করা হচ্ছে আর আমাদের ১৮টি ছেলে পাশ করায় গভর্ণমেণ্টের Director সাহেবের ডিপার্টমেণ্ট recommend করেছেন সামান্য কিছু stipend দাও। V. M. passed মাষ্টার রাখতে গেলে খরচ অনেক। আর পয়সা public subscription গ্রহণ করি না এবং চোর ডাকাতের দল ধ'রে তাদের কাছ থেকে টাকা সংগ্রহ কোরে বেতন দেওয়া হয় না। অথচ ইন্সপেক্টর ও ডিরেক্টরের recommendationএও কিছু দেওয়া হ'ল না। আজ পর্যন্ত ঐ টাকা দেওয়া হয়নি। ওখানে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা আইন করা হয়েছে বোলে আমি প্রধান-মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে বলেছিলাম যে আপনি এটা নিয়ে নিন, না হয় বলুন এটা উঠিয়ে দিই। কারণ এটা আর রাখতে পারা যায় না। আজকাল শিক্ষক পাওয়া যায় না; শিক্ষক পেলেও আপনারা বেতন দেন না--এই সমস্ত অসুবিধা। আরও সেখানে

শোনা যায় বড় বড় বক্তৃতা—বলা হয় grow more food, vocational education এই রকম কত কি শোনা যায়; কিন্তু ৬ বছর ধরে করা গেল কলেজ, ইউনিভারসিটি বলেছে agricultural scheme করতে হবে--সৈয়দ আহমদ সাহেব অনুগ্রহ কোরে লাখেরাজ জমি দিলেন, সেখানে প্রধান-মন্ত্রী মহাশয় গিয়েছিলেন; কিন্তু তাতে কি হবে। চতুর্দ্দিকে বক্তৃতায় শোনা যাচ্ছে এই রকম জিনিস খুব ভাল। ছেলেরা সেখানে লেখাপড়া শিখবে এবং কিছু উপায়ও করতে পারবে। ইউনিভারসিটি ইন্সপেক্টর পূর্ব্বে গিয়ে সেটা সমর্থন করেছিলেন। ইদানিং মাত্র ডিসেম্বরের ১১ই তারিখে schemeটা সম্পূর্ণ সমর্থন করেছেন। আমার বিশ্বাস আর এক বছর বেঁচে থাকলে আবার এটা repeat কোরে শোনাবার দুর্ভাগ্য হবে যে কোন কিছুই হয়নি। আমার জেলা backward, M. E. schoolএ কোন সাহায্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের নাই, জুনিয়র মাদ্রাসারও ৮ বছর ১০ বছর সাহায্য নাই বললেই চলে। মেয়েদের শিক্ষার বিষয়ে সাহায্য নাই বললেও চলে। অথচ এই রকম জেলাতে এমন লোককে পাঠান হয় যিনি এসে বলেন--বর্ত্তমান ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট ইন্সপেক্টর এসেও বলেন--যে বাপু, তোমরা এখানে থাক কেন? কি জন্য মরছ এই villageএ? তোমরা townএ চলে যাও। এই রকম প্রতিকূল অবস্থার ভিতর স্কুল চালান হয়। (Red light is shown here.) মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয় আপনি ত লাল বাতি জ্বালালেন কিন্তু আমাদের মালদহের জঙ্গলে কাল বাতি চিরকালই থাকে, এটাকে লাল করলেন না। আমরা কথাবার্ত্তা বলতে সুযোগ পাই না। আশা করি ২।১ মিনিট সময় দয়া কোরে দেবেন। আমার বেশী কথা নাই।

আমার কথা এই যে আমার যে প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলো রয়েছে এগুলো ২৫।২৬ বছর ধরে কাজ করছে। আমি ঘণ্টা দুই আগে মাননীয় শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে একখানা কাগজ দিয়ে বলছিলাম যে আমি আর এগুলোর সে কর্ত্তাগিরী থাকতে চাই না, আপনি এগুলো গ্রহণ কোরে অন্য কারও উপর ভার দিয়ে চালান। কারণ, আজকাল শিক্ষক পাওয়া যায় না আর পূর্ব্বের মত সহায় শিক্ষক মেলে না। এই অবস্থায় আপনাদের সকলের কাছে এবং গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছে বিশেষ নিবেদন যে যে জেলা এত অধম, এবং আপনারা বাস্তবিক মনে করেন যে এ জেলা বাধা উচিত নয়--তাহলে এটা আবার বিহার গভর্ণমেণ্টকে ফিরিয়ে দিন, আমরা ওখানে চলে যাই, তাহলে কোন রকমে minority হয়ে টেঁচামেচি করতে পারব। আপনাদের মধ্যে থেকে দেখছি আর কোন রকম সুবিধা করতে পারছি না। আমার জীবনের যা কিছু সাধনা হয়ে গেছে। আমি একটি অনুরোধ করছি যাতে এই জেলা শিক্ষা পায় তার ব্যবস্থা করুন। ওখানে ৩ লক্ষ ৩৫সা যুক্ত জাতি, অথচ এক-একটা থানায় কোন graduate নাই, কোন I A পাশ লোকও নাই এমন থানাও মালদহে রয়েছে। কোন কোন জায়গায় এমন কিছু কিছু শিক্ষিত লোক হয়েছে কিন্তু গোটা জেলা হিসাব এখনও ওটাকে খুলনা অসভ্য বলুন [illegible] সাহেবের ভাষায় "পচা" বলুন, দুর্গ জঙ্গল বলুন, যা বলুন আমি মাথা পেতে স্বীকার করব। কারণ আমাদের গ্রাম এখানে কোন শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী আসে ছড়াতে পারেন নি, যদি কোন দিন পারেন ত করবেন।

আমার কথা এই যে যদি বাস্তবিক আমাদের জমি ভাল কোরে চাষ করতে হয়, intensive agriculture করতে হয়, দেশে যে পরিমাণ খাদ্যের দরকার তা করতে চান, তাহলে ও তবু কথা ভাল হয় অফিসার, ডেভেলপমেণ্ট অফিসার রেখে করতে পারবেন না। আপনারা স্কুল, কলেজ, মাদ্রাসা বা ও চেয়ে যে লেখাপড়া শিখান, তাতে অনেক কাজ করতে পারবেন, কিন্তু সহজে কাজ করতে পারবেন, propaganda করতে পারবেন। তা করলে তবে দেশের মধ্যে এটা ছড়িয়ে পড়ে। অফিসার যে রকমভাবের প্রোগ্রাম তাদের কেবলমাত্র জানা আছে এবং তারা কি কোরে দিন কাটান তাও জানা আছে। আমি বলতে চাই প্রাদেশিক খরচই বাড়াবেন ততই দুধের একটা আড্ডা হয়ে দাঁড়াবে, আর দুধ check করবার জন্য আবার ১০ হাজার, ২০ হাজার, লাখ লাখ টাকা লাগবে। (Cheers from opposition side.) তাতেও কোন রকম check হবে না। আমি বলি অফিসার কমিয়ে দিন এবং স্কুল কলেজের মধ্য দিয়ে চেষ্টা করুন, যাতে বিদ্যার বিস্তার হয় তা করুন। আমি এই যে একটা কলেজ করতে চাইছি এটা খালি বাংলার জন্য, খালি মালদহ জেলার জন্য নয়। সমস্ত জেলার যাতে সুবিধা হয় তার জন্যই বলছি।

Maharaja BHUPENDRA CHANDRA SINCHA, of Susang: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Education to the subject matter of grants to Sanskrit *tols*. We find from the budget estimate of the current year that the amount earmarked has been Rs. 54,000. We find from the same source that the amount for Madrassah education stands at Rs. 5,68,838.

While the Madrassah education is run on a more correct line, the expenses under Sanskrit *tols* are controlled partly by an expert organisation and partly by a body that has nothing to do with Sanskrit education. This duel control leads to abuse of the very meagre amount sanctioned for the Sanskrit *tols* in Bengal.

The Bengal Sanskrit Association is a body of experts formed under rules framed by the Government for doing essential works in connection with the Sanskrit *tol* education in Bengal. It functions in lines identical with those of the madrassah and is quite competent to look to the cause of Sanskrit *tol* education in Bengal.

I very well appreciate the policy of the Government in lending support to the indigenous methods of promoting the studies of classical subjects under Government control, though without direct interference from the Government. But one wonders why in spite of this laudable attitude of the Government such wide discrepancies could be made in the cases of grants to Sanskritic and Buddhistic education and madrassah education. The figures in the budget provoke outburst of expressions that becomes difficult to restrain. To criticise the Government attitude most mildly we may say that we are struck by the magnitude of the lack of sympathy of the Hon'ble Minister for these two branches of classical studies. We do not want to criticise the policy of the Government lending greater support to any other classical subject; but we want to bring home to the Government the utter futility of granting Rs. 54,000 out of which the amount of Rs. 30,000 only can be distributed as grants-in-aid to the 1,116 pundits of Sanskrit *tols* all over Bengal. It will be an evil day for the cultural history of Bengal if the dying embers of Sanskritic culture are extinguished for want of sympathy on the part of the Government. The pundits are followers of the cult of "Plain living and high thinking", no doubt but this should not be allowed to be stretched beyond the limit of human endurance!

I now come at once to suggest specifically the line on which improvements may be made. The suggestions are not new; they have been made from time to time by persons and institutions interested in the study of Sanskrit through *tols*.

Last year the amount spent, I am told, was nearly Rs. 54,700 to Rs. 64,700. Of this the total amount paid through the Bengal Sanskrit Association was Rs. 19,000 for grants-in-aid that could be distributed to only 188 *tols* out of the 1,116 *tols* in Bengal and that grant also could be given varying from Rs. 2 to Rs. 8 per month in individual cases. Thus 1,000 pundits went without receiving any grant-in-aid from that fund. An amount of Rs. 24,700 for stipends on the results of examinations was also given through the Bengal Sanskrit Association. Rupees 20 to Rs. 30 thousand were spent through the Inspectorate, and the Inspectorate is wholly incompetent, as I have already said, being a body of laymen, to do justice to the amount entrusted to them. The improvements suggested are—

For Sanskrit *tol* education in indigenous line the following grants may be made by the Government to be spent through the Bengal Sanskrit Association:—

	Rs.
(1) Grants-in-aid to *tols*, wholly to be made through the Bengal Sanskrit Association	50,000 (Rs. 10,000 to be earmarked for female students)
(2) Stipends on the results of examination	25,000
(3) Office expenses	15,000
(4) Provident Fund or pensions, stationery, printing, travelling allowance and other expenses	20,000
Total	1,10,000

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech.)

The grant of Rs. 10,000 should be increased by Rs. 2,000 to avoid a cut in the grant in the Presidency and Calcutta Division to adjust the amount proportionately. The cut is bound to affect the pundits adversely in these difficult days.

The grant now distributed by the Inspectorate should be placed at the disposal of the Bengal Sanskrit Association.

Provision should be made for appointment of *Tol* Inspectors under the Bengal Sanskrit Association as in other provinces.

The recurring grant for Sanskrit *tol* education should be proportionate to similar grants for Madrassah education.

The present staff of the Bengal Sanskrit Association should be put on Government service basis in all respects, specially as regards pension. The present position is anomalous as the employees have all the responsibilities of Government servants but not their full privileges of which security of service and pension are the most important. This position may be compared with the arrangements made for employees on the madrassah side where there are full Government servants including—

(1) Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, for Muhammadan Education;

(2) Special Officer;

(3) Inspecting Maulvis; and

(4) Office staff (pensionable).

This discrepancy should be reconciled as early as possible.

I should like to say that neither *tol* nor madrassah can survive except under direct Government help and control without Government interference.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: الفقر فخرى My Prophet said "Poverty is my pride", but the same Prophet had to say also—this is in Hadis again الفقر سواد الوجه فى الدارين Poverty blacketh the face not only in this world but also in the next. I notice that after obtaining University degrees, the Scheduled Caste people and the Muslims ultimately fall out as they cannot stick to their education and the unfortunate situation is that there are very few amongst them who have got post-graduate education. So, my demand is that there must be some provision for award of stipends for post-graduate study in our universities and these stipends should be available to the rural section of the population. I am definite that the Cabinet knows that poor graduates can be found in abundance among the Scheduled Castes and Muslims who cannot get higher education on account of their poverty I also admit that all Caste Hindus are not rich and I know there are many among them who are poor. Sir, here my demand is insistent and persistent. It should be done. This portion of the problem has been up till now untouched. This should be tackled as this cannot brook any delay.

Then, Sir, there is another branch of education, viz., technical and scientific education, where also we are not making much progress. This must be done. When the Hon'ble Ministers are in search of graduates in technical education and scientific education, how is it that very few suitable candidates are to be found in Bengal and they have to go in for people from other provinces and other countries? This is very unfortunate. We are living on this soil and we claim we are educated in our universities but even now we have got very few people who have got the necessary

qualifications in those lines. Here again, poverty has stood in the way and poverty in this direction must be combated by the State. The State must come forward to help anybody and everybody who wants education on scientific and technical lines. If poverty is a handicap, it cannot be permitted to stand in the way and he must be helped because the famous poem comes to my memory—

Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,

And waste its sweetness in the desert air.

We cannot permit young people who are promising to be left behind. They cannot be allowed to rot and to go unnoticed and to go without name and fame in future. This is one proposition.

Sir, as I said, I must be brief.

Then, Sir, coming to primary education, I join my voice with a little bit of emphasis with the voice of Mr. Israil. His demands are my demands. I should say چوں ابتدا بمردی بر انتہا برسان You have made a beginning; you must also be persistent in pursuing it. You cannot falter, you cannot waver, you must complete it. If it is said that there is dearth of money, then how is it that the Government of Bengal has got money to build this big building and other big buildings in this city of palaces, I mean Calcutta. Government spent so much money for these buildings here in Calcutta, but they have got no money for the villages! If there is no money I insist that you get the money and do what the people of Bengal and the countryside desire. I do now assure you, Sir, that here is my support, and I shall always be supporting the Government whenever they would require money for the Bengal villages. You cannot neglect this thing.

In a Subdivision of four thanas there is only one Sub-Inspector of Schools, who cannot visit all the schools even once in two, three years. This is a worst state of thing. Is it not a crime? If this is not a crime, I do not know what crime is, and what more crime there could be. Therefore, Sir, I join my voice again with my friend Mr. Israil in saying that what you have begun to do you must complete and give full education. You cannot falter, you cannot waver, you must be persistent and consistent in doing that.

Maulana MD. ABDUL AZIZ : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমার নামে সাধারণ শিক্ষা বাজেট লাইনে যে কয়েকটি ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আছে তাহা আমি move না করিয়া এ সম্বন্ধে কতকগুলি জরুরী কথা বলতে চাই। প্রথমতঃ প্রাইমারী স্কুলে কোরাণ ও দীনিয়াত শিক্ষা দিবার জন্য প্রত্যেক স্কুলে একজন মৌলবী অথবা কারী শিক্ষক নিযুক্ত করার একান্ত আবশ্যক এবং তার প্রতি গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। আশা করি অতি সত্বর গভর্ণমেণ্ট ইহার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন। এই রকম একজন দীনিয়াত পড়াইবার উপযুক্ত শিক্ষক নিযুক্ত না করিয়া, শুধু দীনিয়াত বাধ্যতামূলক করিলে কিছুই ফল হইবে না। পক্ষান্তরে ছেলে মেয়েরা অশুদ্ধভাবে খানিকটা শিক্ষা করিয়া একটা অনর্থের সৃষ্টি করিবে। তাই দীনিয়াত শিক্ষা বাধ্যতামূলক হইবার প্রাক্কালে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যেন এ বিষয়ে মনোযোগী হ'ন। ভুলেও যেন এমন লোকের উপর কোরাণ ও দীনিয়াত পড়াইবার ভার না দেন, যাঁরা নিজেই কোরাণ ও দীনিয়াত ভালমত শুদ্ধভাবে পড়েন নাই।

দ্বিতীয়তঃ প্রাইমারী ও সেকেণ্ডারী স্কুলের শিক্ষকগণ অল্প বেতনে মাষ্টারী করিয়া নিজেদের ভরণপোষণ করিতে না পারায়, মনোযোগ দিয়া শিক্ষকতা করিতে পারিতেছেন না, অতএব তাঁদের বেতন বৃদ্ধির ব্যবস্থা হওয়া একান্ত প্রয়োজন। তৃতীয়তঃ বাংলা দেশে কোরাণ শিক্ষার মাদ্রাসাগুলি গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইতে সাহায্য না পাওয়ায় ক্রমে ক্রমে কোরাণ শিক্ষা লোপ পাওয়ার উপক্রম হইয়াছে। বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় যে বাংলায় মাদ্রাসাগুলিতে কোরাণ শিক্ষার সুব্যবস্থা নাই। এতদিন পরে মাত্র এ বৎসর হইতে কলিকাতা মাদ্রাসায় কোরাণ পড়ার ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে। কোরাণ শিক্ষা যে প্রত্যেক মুসলমানের জন্য আবশ্যক একথা কেহই অস্বীকার করিতে পারেন না। কিন্তু জিজ্ঞাস্য এই যে, এই কোরাণ শিক্ষার জন্য এ যাবৎ গভর্ণমেণ্ট কি করিয়াছেন? আমার মতে জুনিয়ার ও সিনিয়ার মাদ্রাসাগুলিকে টোলের সম পর্য্যায় আনিলে সব অসুবিধা ঘুচিয়া যায়। আর যেহেতু মাদ্রাসাতে বাংলা

ইংরাজী, ইতিহাস, ভূগোল, অঙ্ক, জ্যামিতি প্রভৃতি সব বিষয়ই পড়ান হয়, অতএব মাদ্রাসাগুলিকে মুসলিম স্কুলের ট্যাগার্ডে আনিতে কোনই আপত্তি থাকিতে পারে না। আশা করি গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোরাণ শিক্ষার মাদ্রাসাগুলিকে অতি সত্বর টোলের পর্য্যায় লইয়া, এগুলিতে সরকারী সাহায্যের ব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

চতুর্থতঃ বাংলার মাদ্রাসাগুলিকে উন্নত ধরণে চালাইবার জন্য একটি আরবী ইউনিভারসিটির আবশ্যক। আরবী ইউনিভার্সিটি প্রতিষ্ঠান ব্যতীত মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষার উন্নতি হওয়া সম্ভবপর নহে।

পঞ্চমতঃ গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাংলার প্রাইভেট এতিমখানা (Orphanage) গুলির প্রতি বড়ই অমনযোগী। যে স্থলে তাঁহারা গভর্ণমেণ্ট এতিমখানাগুলিকে প্রত্যেক ছেলের জন্য মাসিক ২৫৲ টাকা ব্যয় করেন, সেস্থলে প্রাইভেট এতিমখানাগুলিতে প্রত্যেক এতিমের জন্য মাত্র ২৲ টাকা সাহায্য করিয়া থাকেন। এটা বড়ই অবিচার। জিজ্ঞাসা করি যখন সকলেই এতিম, তখন গভর্ণমেণ্ট এতিমখানা মাসিক ২৫৲ টাকা করিয়া সাহায্য পাইবে, আর প্রাইভেট এতিমখানা সাহায্য পাইবে মাত্র দুই টাকা? প্রাইভেট এতিমখানার এতিমদের প্রতি গভর্ণমেণ্টের এরূপ নির্দ্দয় ও উদাসীন হওয়ার কারণ কি? ইহা যে অত্যন্ত একটা অন্যায়, অবিচার করা হচ্ছে একথা কখনই গভর্ণমেণ্ট অস্বীকার করতে পারেন না। এই দুই প্রকারের ব্যবস্থার দ্বারা গভর্ণমেণ্টের অবিচার ও দুর্নামের মাত্রাটা তাঁরা যেন অনুমান করিয়া নেন এবং আশা করি অতি সত্বর প্রাইভেট এতিমখানার প্রত্যেক ছেলের ব্যয়ের অর্দ্ধেকের বেশী খরচ গভর্ণমেণ্ট বহন করিবার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

ষষ্ঠতঃ ওল্ড স্কীম মাদ্রাসার ছাত্রদিগকে প্রাইভেট টাইপেণ্ড হইতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট একেবারে deprive করিয়া রাখিয়াছেন। আমার বিশ্বাস গভর্ণমেণ্ট সমস্ত বাংলা দেশের মাদ্রাসায় বোধ হয় দশটা টাইপেণ্ডও দেন না। গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট আরবী শিক্ষার্থীদের সরকারী টাইপেণ্ড পাওয়া যেন গুরুতর অপরাধ। যেখানে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কলেজ ও স্কুলের ইংরাজী শিক্ষার্থী ছাত্রদিগকে শত শত টাইপেণ্ড দেওয়া হয়, সেখানে মাদ্রাসার ছাত্রদিগকে একেবারে deprive করা বাস্তবিকই অবিচার। আশা করি নিশ্চয়ই গভর্ণমেণ্ট এ বিষয়ের সুব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

সপ্তমতঃ মাদ্রাসা, জুনিয়ার, সিনিয়ার সবগুলতেই সরকারী গ্র্যাণ্টের পরিমাণ অত্যন্ত সামান্য। যে পরিমাণ সাহায্য পাওয়া উচিত, অনেক স্থলে তাহার এক তৃতীয়াংশও দেওয়া হয় না। মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা যদি বজায় রাখিতে হয়, তাহা হইলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আরও গ্র্যাণ্ট বৃদ্ধির ব্যবস্থা করুন, এই আমার অনুরোধ।

Khan Sahib Maulvi MD. HASANUZZAMAN : Mr Speaker, Sir, আমার আজকে বলবার ইচ্ছা ছিল না কারণ সকলে বলতে গেলে সময় পাওয়া যায় না। আমি নমাজ পড়তে গিয়েছিলাম। শুনিলাম আমার জনৈক বন্ধু অপর দিকের--যিনি নাকি নিজেই নিজেকে অতি জ্ঞানী মনে করেন তিনি নাকি আমার সম্বন্ধে ২।১টি কথা বক্তৃতাচ্ছলে বলে ফেলেছেন। তিনি বাতারাতি মন্ত্রিপদ গ্রহণ করবার জন্য আমার বাড়ীতে গিয়ে হাতজোড় করেছিলেন সেই সাহেদআলী আজ সেখান থেকে ফিরে এসে—

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY : On a point of order Sir. Can a member speak against another member about his personal conduct which has no connection with the subject ? He is indulging in irrelevant talks.

Mr. SPEAKER : উনি যা বলেছেন তার againstএ বলতে চান ত সেই সম্বন্ধেই বলুন, অন্য কোন matter আনবেন না।

Khan Sahib Maulvi MD. HASASNUZZAMAN : উনি লাঙ্গলকোট ইনডাষ্ট্রীয়াল স্কুল সম্বন্ধে বলেছেন যে সেখানে কোন ইনডাষ্ট্রীয়াল স্কুল নাই। গত মঙ্গলবার দিনই আমাদের Physical Director Mr. Buchanon সেখানে গিয়ে দেখে এসেছেন। কালকে সেখান থেকে লোক এসেছে (noise).

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTT : He said that there was no school since May or June 1941 upto December 1944.

Mr. SPEAKER : আপনি ভাল করে শোনেন নি।

Khan Sahib Maulvi MD. HASANUZZAMAN : উনি যা বলেছেন সেজন্য মিথ্যুক বলতে পারি না। তবে উনি একজন মেম্বর এবং এখানে আমার বন্ধু স্থানীয় লোক হয়ে মিথ্যার আশ্রয় নিয়েছেন--এইজন্য আমাকে বলতে হচ্ছে। উনি আমাকে জিজ্ঞাসা করতে পারতেন। মানুষ হিসাবে মনুষ্যত্বের মর্য্যাদা না দিয়ে, জিজ্ঞাসা না করে একটা মিথ্যা কথা বলেছেন তা ঠিক করেন নি। আমি তাঁকে মিথ্যুক বলব না, তবে তিনি বিশ্বাস কথা বলেছেন।

আমি challenge কোরে বলছি সেখানে ভুলে কাজ চলছে। বহু বহু লোক inspectionএ গিয়েছেন এবং সকলেই চিঠি দিয়েছেন। উনি আবার জেলার লোক হয়ে মিথ্যা কথা বললেন এই জন্যই প্রতিবাদ করছি।

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, I rise to oppose the cut motions that have been moved. The time at my disposal will not permit me to give a detailed reply to all that has been said by members who have moved their cut motions or who have spoken generally on the Education budget. Sir, I would, however, like to offer my thanks to those honourable members who have given constructive suggestions. The suggestions that have been given by Mr. Wordsworth about giving assistance to teachers I shall bear in mind and I think if I require his assistance in this matter he will be prepared to give the Government every help.

The general criticism of the education budget is that there is too inadequate provision for primary education and for secondary education. Very few have spoken about post-secondary education. So far as the charge of inadequacy is concerned, my answer is that the charge is true but I plead not guilty. The funds at the disposal of the Government did not make it possible to do more than what has been done. However, since the present Ministry has assumed charge what we have been able to do in respect of both primary and secondary education I am just now placing before the House. As far as primary education is concerned when the present Government came into power it was found that there was a decision of the previous Government to the effect that during the continuance of the war there should be no further extension of the Primary Education Act in more districts. It was found to be a very disquieting decision. Of course the previous Government may have been induced to come to that decision on account of the war situation but I think they were wrong. I rather agree with honourable members who have said that education is also as essential a matter for the life of the community as many other matters generally considered as more essential. What we did, Sir, when we found that there was that decision of the previous Government was to revise that decision and to try to introduce the Primary Education Act in the remaining districts. We found that the Primary Education Act had been introduced only in 14 districts up till 1940. After that, the Act has been introduced in 7 other districts and at present 21 districts are under the purview of the Primary Education Act. We have also come to a decision—a tentative decision rather—to introduce the Act in 3 other districts, viz., Hooghly, Burdwan and Bankura. If the Act is introduced in these 3 districts there will only be one district left without the Act being introduced there, namely the Midnapore district. That district, Sir, requires special treatment on account of the disturbed situation in the district and on account of the effects of cyclone. Government thinks that it is not yet time to extend the operation of the Act to that district. Save and except that district, the Act will be in operation I hope within a very short time in all the districts of Bengal.

As regards the provision for primary education in the next year's budget my honourable friend, Mr. Israil has said that it is too inadequate. I have already stated that all grants are inadequate and I agree fully with Mr. Wordsworth that education grants will always be and are bound to be inadequate. But the next year's provision, it will be observed by honourable members, is higher than what has been provided during the last three years. Hitherto the additional provision was Rs. 5 lakhs every year but in the coming year we have provided for 8 lakhs in place of 5 lakhs on account of the fact that we are going to introduce the Primary Education Act in several new districts. What we have done as to the dearness allowance of teachers is already known to honourable members. I admit that the dearness allowance given is very meagre. Primary school teachers get only a dearness allowance of Rs. 5-8 per head. Of that amount Rs. 3 is paid direct by Government and the balance, viz., Rs. 2-8 is paid by district school boards. That amount is also the ultimate responsibility of the Government because Government has to supplement

any deficit that the district school boards may have to face on account of the payment of the dearness allowance. Honourable members know that though the dearness allowance of Rs. 5-8 for primary school teachers and Rs. 5 for secondary school teachers is so meagre, still the total amount necessary for giving this much is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 60 lakhs of rupees per year. Having regard to the meagre finances of the Government of Bengal an amount of Rs. 60 lakhs cannot be regarded as inconsiderable. A further grant has not been found to be hitherto possible but the question is under examination and I can give this assurance to the House that I shall do my level best either to increase the dearness allowance of primary school teachers or to increase the rate of their pay. How far I shall be successful I do not know but I shall leave no stone unturned to give further relief to primary school teachers.

Primary schools are in a deplorable condition at the present time. I fully agree with what has been said by honourable members regarding the condition of primary schools but I do not agree with my honourable friend, Mr. Ashutosh Lahiri in respect of what he has said regarding primary education. He says that primary education under the Act has proved to be unsuccessful: Why extend it to other districts! I find on the other hand that Miss Mira Datta Gupta has complained that it has not been introduced in all the districts and that it has hitherto been introduced only in 19 districts. Her figures are wrong, but she is anxious that the Act should be enforced in all the districts of Bengal as soon as possible. These are contradictory views and I think, Sir, that all people who have bestowed any thought on this subject will agree that the view represented by Miss Mira Datta Gupta is the correct view. Those who say that the Act has proved to be unsuccessful are to my mind absolutely wrong. I shall give an example of one district. The Act was first introduced in the district of Mymensingh. That was in the year 1937. In that year the number of primary school examinees was 6,000. In the course of a few years in the year 1944 the number rose to 25,000. Why this increase? It was the operation of the Primary Education Act that was responsible for this. If any honourable member would like to pay a visit to the district of Mymensingh or some other district where this Act was introduced fairly early he will be agreeably surprised to find that on account of the expansion of Primary Education there has been a great stimulus to secondary education. A large number of M.E., Junior and Senior Madrasahs and High Schools has sprung up and now Government is finding it extremely difficult to give proper assistance to so many new secondary institutions which have come into being. Therefore I do not at all agree with Mr. Lahiri that the Primary Education Act has proved to be a total failure and that there is no necessity to extend it to other districts.

As regards Secondary Education, Sir, when we assumed charge of office we found that there was no additional provision for giving grants to secondary institutions. In the very next year the present Government provided a sum of more than three lakhs of rupees for giving assistance to secondary schools of all types including junior and old type madrassahs as well as *tols*. There was also an emergency lump grant of Rs. 1 lakh for secondary institutions and also another additional grant of Rs. 1 lakh for colleges. All this, save and except the lump grant of Rs. 1 lakh, has been repeated in the next year's budget and over and above that a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided for giving assistance to secondary institutions of all types. My honourable friend Mr. Israil was correct in saying that this amount has been provided in consideration of the provision in the Secondary Education Bill that each year the Secondary Education Fund would be augmented by a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs until a particular figure was reached. In order to show the *bona fides* of the Government as to the provision made in that Bill, this provision has been made for a further expansion of secondary education. Although the Bill has not yet been passed, it is only proper to make the provision that was foreshadowed in the Bill by the Government.

One thing that has been said about *tols* requires some attention. My friend Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar as well as the Maharaja of Susang have complained that the grant to *tols* is inadequate, that the *tols* are treated more unfavourably than the old scheme madrassahs. Sir, the analogy does not at all apply. Honourable members should know that the old scheme madrassahs that are recognised by Government are not of the same type as the *tols* are. As far as I know, in the *tols* there is no modern education given; there is no history, no geography, no modern subject of any type but only a certain type, probably a very high type of Sanskrit education is imparted such as Sanskrit literature and grammar, Sanskrit philosophy, etc.; whereas in the old scheme madrassahs recognised by Government you will find, Sir, that almost all the subjects that are taught in high schools are taught there though not to the same standard, and therefore these institutions are not of the same type at all. If this matter is examined, you will rather find that a certain class of madrassahs are unfairly treated. These are also old scheme madrassahs that do not follow the curriculum of the Calcutta Madrassah but they follow the curriculum of Deoband and other west Indian madrassahs. Over and above the oriental curriculum in Arabic and Persian they also impart some education in modern subjects, but they are neither recognised by Government nor do they get any help whatsoever from Government. Therefore, Sir, I would submit that these madrassahs are being treated with neglect and the *tols* have not at all been unfairly treated, and that whenever it is possible to give some additional grant to secondary schools and recognised madrassahs such additional grant is also given to *tols*.

As regards Scheduled Castes education, Sir, my friend Mr. Radhanath Das proposes that the grant should be increased to Rs. 10 lakhs per year. My friend forgets that the grant was only Rs 1 lakh and a half annually till lately and the Government that he supported for a considerable time gave nothing more than that amount per year (Mr DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: We did not support any Government.) Everyone knows that. When the present Government came into power, they increased the amount to Rs. 5 lakhs and now it is a recurring provision in the budget Some doubt has been expressed whether the total amount of Rs 5 lakhs is going to be spent. So far as that is concerned, I would submit that in the current year the whole amount except a very small sum is expected to be spent, but I would remind the House that the money cannot be frittered away or wasted in any way. It has to be spent on sound schemes The money is not spent without consulting the Scheduled Caste Education Committee and in consultation with that committee, as I have already said, the entire amount is expected to be spent in the current year and I think during coming years also the money will be spent. I also would like to say that as time proceeds, it may be necessary later on to increase the grant but the time has not yet come.

As regards Scheduled Caste student hostels in Calcutta, a motion has been moved by my friend Mr. Patiram Roy. That is a very melancholy story. There were three Scheduled Caste hostels in Calcutta, one of them was being managed by Government and the other two were aided by Government. As soon as we assumed office, we found that there was so much recrimination about the management of these privately managed hostels that intervention of Government was necessary. The Scheduled Caste Education Committee considered the matter very carefully and they submitted a proposal to the Government that Government should take over the management of all the three Scheduled Caste hostels and in accordance with the recommendation of the Scheduled Caste Education Committee Government have now set up two large Scheduled Caste hostels entirely managed by Government and the accommodation in these two hostels is not only enough but for the time being more than enough for the number of students that have offered to join these hostels. If there is any necessity for establishing more hostels as the number of Scheduled Caste students

increase, that will be taken up in due time, but I would submit that the present arrangement of the hostels being under the management of Government seems to be the best. *If my honourable friend Mr. Patiram Roy is genuinely anxious for the welfare of the Scheduled Caste students, I hope he will induce the other Scheduled Caste students who are still in the old hostels to join the new hostels as soon as they can.*

Then, Sir, there is one thing about the cyclone-affected areas that has been raised by way of a cut motion by Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal. I am afraid my friend who was in jail, I suppose, for a very considerable time is not conversant with the real situation. That is why he has said that Government have done nothing by way of giving relief to educational institutions in the cyclone-affected areas in the district of Midnapore. Sir, for the purpose of rebuilding school buildings that were destroyed by the cyclone as well as for appliances and equipments and for giving aid to teachers, more than Rs. 6 lakhs was provided—in fact Rs. 6,79,929 was provided—and out of this amount as much as Rs. 6,11,409 was spent in the district of Midnapore. A major share of the money had gone to Midnapore and a small portion went to Howrah and 24-Parganas. Therefore, it is absolutely out of the mark to say that Government did not do anything by way of giving relief to the institutions that were affected by the terrible cyclone that passed over the district two or three years back. (MR. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Grants to high schools have been suspended.) Sir, I do not know whether he has raised the question of high schools but he has specifically raised the question of the Contai College. That question was raised once before in this House and honourable members will remember that anxious as the Government are to give a grant to this institution, the institution has hitherto failed to help itself. Under our rules of grants-in-aid the managing committees or governing bodies of institutions have to be approved by the District Magistrate before Government can give any aid to these institutions. I do not know why the college authorities have failed hitherto to have their managing committee or governing body, whatever the case may be, approved by the District Magistrate. I am sure that the District Magistrate will not frivolously refuse approval to a managing committee if it is properly constituted with persons who are genuine promoters of education. I hope, Sir, instead of raising these futile questions before the Assembly if my honourable friend can induce the college authorities to constitute a proper governing body, the college will receive the aid in no time. (MR. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Yes, that has been constituted and after that the grant has been suspended.)

My honourable friend Mr. Idris Ahmed Mia complained that Malda is a very backward district, it is a neglected district, there being no Minister, no Director of Public Instruction, no education or other officer from that district. But Mr. Idris Ahmed Mia made only one little mistake. He did not look at himself. Where there is Idris Ahmed Mia, he is a match for all. I think, individually speaking, he has done a good deal for the advancement of education in his own district, particularly in his own village. The question of giving aid to the institution he has referred to is under the consideration of Government and I hope Government will be able to come to a decision in the near future.

Sir, Mr. Shahedali moved a motion. When I read the language of his motion I was a little mystified. I could not really understand what he meant but his intention was made clear in the speech that he has made on the floor of the House and his speech has shown that he was probably ashamed to put in black and white what he has said on the floor of the House here. I do not consider it worth my while to give any reply to his insinuations unworthy as they are.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: On a point of order. The Hon'ble Minister says that I had made insinuations. Sir, in Aswinpur high school there had not been any dearness allowance. Can he deny it?

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot speak now.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, many members of the House are anxious that there should be proper provision for religious education in primary schools. That question was raised last year also during the budget debate and as soon as that question was raised I took it up but the examination of the question took a considerable time. I am glad to announce to the House that the Government has come to a decision and the decision has been announced in the *Calcutta Gazette* that religious education will be a subject of examination henceforward.

I do not think I have time enough to deal with the other points that have been raised. Sir, I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Miss Mira Datta Gupta that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the inadequacy of the grants made to the non-Government primary and secondary schools in the province, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abdul Wahed Bokainagari that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government—

(*a*) to fix the minimum pay of primary school teachers at Rs 50 per month and give them rationing at Government controlled rates;

(*b*) to repair the primary schools that have been damaged or demolished;

(*c*) to introduce compulsory primary education;

was then put and lost

Mr. SHAHEDALI: On a personal explanation I want to refer the Hon'ble Minister to motion No. 35.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please sit down? You cannot ask it now. I am putting the motions to vote

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government with regard to open Government hostel for Scheduled Caste students abolishing the existing Scheduled Caste hostels on grant-in-aid basis, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the general policy of Scheduled Caste education in Bengal, was then put and lost

The motion of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs 100 to raise a discussion about the indifference of the Government in the matter of introducing free and compulsory primary education and of expansion of secondary education in Bengal, was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Ashutosh Lahiry that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discusion about the extension of the operation of Primary Education Act to other districts in spite of the admitted failure of the Act in districts where it has been in operation, was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Ashutosh Lahiry that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General"

be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the unsatisfactory manner in which the Scheduled Caste Education Fund is disbursed, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in the matter of general education in the typhoon and cyclone affected areas of Contai and Tamluk in Midnapore, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Iswar Chandra Mal that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about policy of the Government in the matter of withholding grants to schools and the P. K. College of Contai, district Midnapore, was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion on small and insufficient grant of dearness allowance to the teachers of the non-Government primary and secondary schools, was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Radhanath Das that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (1) the Scheduled Caste Education Fund, (2) The Scheduled Caste Education Committee, (3) raising the amount of the Scheduled Caste Education Fund to Rs. 10,00,000 per year, and (4) Scheduled Caste education policy of the Government, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar that the demand of Rs. 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about insufficient grant in Sanskrit education and *tol*, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr Shahedali that the demand of Rs 2,56,63,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discuison about tourings of Hon'ble Minister of Education and his Parliamentary Secretary in the mufassal in relation to masses and the inspecting staff of Education Department, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr Tamizuddin Khan that a sum of Rs. 2,56,63,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" was then put and agreed to.

37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 11,26,800 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

11—Registration.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 26,72,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "11—Registration".

Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 26,72,000 for expenditure under the head "11—Registration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about corruption in Registration offices.

মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, এই সম্পর্কে আমার নামে যে ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব আছে তাহা আমি move করিতেছি। এই সম্পর্কে যে খুব বেশী বলিবার প্রয়োজন আছে তাহা আমি মনে করি না। যেহেতু আমার নাম পার্টি থেকে select হয়েছিল, কাজেই আমি এই সম্পর্কে দু'একটা কথা বলতে চাই।

Corruption সম্বন্ধে বলবো কার নিকট? বর্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী সম্পর্কে corruption প্রতিকারের কথা বলা, এর চেয়ে বাতুলতা আর কিছু নাই। আগে আমরা জানতাম যে registration বিভাগে ঘুষের কারবার খুব বেশী ছিল। কিন্তু বর্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর আমলে যেসব বিভাগের সৃষ্টি হয়েছে, বিশেষ করে Civil Supply বিভাগ এবং তার যে ঘুষের কারবার এবং আদান প্রদান চলেছে তার তুলনায় registration বিভাগের ঘুষ বিশেষ কিছু corruption নয়। যেহেতু জনসাধারণের registration officeএর ঘুষের সঙ্গে জড়িত সেইজন্য জনসাধারণের বর্তমান সময়ে নানাভাবে কষ্ট পাইতে হয় এবং ইহা নিবারণ করা গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে একান্ত কর্তব্য। এই সম্পর্কে আমি বলতে চাই যে জামালপুর মহকুমার মাদারীগঞ্জ থানায় একটা sub-registry অফিস ছিল, সেই অফিসটা বর্তমানে সরিয়ে Jamalpur Head-quartersএ নেওয়া হয়েছে। Jamalpur Head-quarters থেকে মাদারীগঞ্জ থানার দূরত্ব প্রায় ১৮-২০ মাইল। সেখানকার অধিবাসীদের Jamalpur সহরে আসিতে এত কষ্ট হয় যে তা বর্ণনাতীত। কিছুদিন পূর্বে আমি একটা suggestion দিয়াছিলাম যে, সেখানে যে কাজী অফিস আছে তার সঙ্গে ঐ অঞ্চলের Sub-registry অফিস amalgamate করা হোক। তাহলে ঐ অঞ্চলের লোকদের কষ্ট কিছু লাঘব হতে পারে। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয়, আজ পর্যন্ত এই বিভাগ তার কোন action নেয়নি। এবং কেন যে নেননি তার কোন কারণ বুঝতে পারি না। আমি যে suggestion দিয়াছিলাম তাতে মাদারীগঞ্জের লোকদের সুবিধা হবে, এবং এতে আমার বিশ্বাস যে corruption কমে যাবে।

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 26,72,000 for expenditure under the head "11—Registration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (1) paucity of Scheduled Castes appointment in the Registration Department of the Government and (2) want of waiting room, lavatory and latrines in the sub-registry offices.

Sir, with a very few words I want to draw the attention of Government this evening to the distress and discomfiture that are being meted out by Government to those who come to the sub-registry offices The Hon'ble Minister should think about the troubles and anxieties that are being suffered by the people especially the womenfolk who come to the sub-registry offices for registering their documents The Hon'ble Minister should pay more attention to this matter and I appeal to him that the distress of the people should be removed as far as possible

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, I oppose both the motions. I may only say that appointments in the Registration Department are made according to the Communal Ratio Rules and therefore no injustice is being done to any community.

The motion of Mr Giasuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 26,72,000 for expenditure under the head "11—Registration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about corruption in Registration offices, was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Radhanath Das that the demand of Rs. 26,72,000 for expenditure under the head "11—Registration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (1) paucity of Scheduled Castes appointment in the Registration Department of the Government and (2) want of waiting room, lavatory and latrines in the sub-registry offices, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that a sum of Rs. 26,72,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "11—Registration", was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8-12 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Friday, the 16th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

The ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 16th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present.

Mr. Deputy Speaker (MR. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 188 Members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Present arrangement for ascertaining and recording of deaths due to starvation.

*197. **RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(a) the present arrangement for ascertainment and recording of deaths due to starvation in (i) municipal and (ii) rural areas of Bengal;

(b) district by district, the number of deaths from starvation that occurred during each of the past ten months of 1944;

(c) the number of destitutes that (i) were admitted to and (ii) died in the Calcutta Hospitals during each of the past ten months of 1944; and

(d) why the starvation and deaths could not be prevented by the working of the Government relief schemes?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (a) There is no arrangement for recording deaths due to starvation separately.

(b) In view of the reply to question (a), it is not possible to furnish the information.

(c) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(d) From January, 1944, onwards the deaths that occurred were not due to sheer starvation or inadequate relief but were due to malnutrition consequent upon famine condition of previous year and abnormal lowering of the standard of living due to war conditions and consequent susceptibility to diseases.

Regarding Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, M.L.A., a security prisoner.

*198. **Maulvi ABDUL WAHED:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(a) where Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, M.L.A., a security prisoner, is at present;

(b) how is his present health;

(c) what amount is being spent for his foodings;

(d) whether Government is considering the desirability of bringing him back to Bengal;

(*e*) whether Government has granted any allowance for the maintenance of his family;

(*f*) if so, the amount thereof; and

(*g*) if not, why not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): The action regarding arrest and transfer out of Bengal of Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, M.L.A., was taken at the instance of the Government of India. I must in the public interest decline to furnish any details. These are also matters for the Government of India and not for the Government of Bengal.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government consider it desirable to enquire about the present health of Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi and let the House know?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, we may obtain and supply the information if the honourable member so desires.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the arrest took place with or without the consent of the Government of Bengal?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have made it clear on several occasions on the floor of the House that the Government of India was primarily responsible for the detention of Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi and that he was arrested at the instance of the Government of India.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House whether the Government of Bengal think it their duty to furnish information about the sons of the soil who have been arrested legally or illegally and detained for or without trial outside Bengal?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have nothing further to add

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Government of Bengal consider the desirability of taking up this case with the Government of India requesting them to repatriate them to Bengal?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already replied to Mr Datta that information regarding the prisoner would be obtained and supplied.

Release of Miss Kamala Das Gupta, B.A., a security prisoner, on grounds of health.

***189. Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the date of arrest of Miss Kamala Das Gupta, B.A., a security prisoner in the Presidency Jail, Calcutta;

(*ii*) whether she was ever before a detenu or an internee or externee, and if so, how many years and months in each case;

(*iii*) if she was ever convicted by, or made an accused in, a court of law;

(*iv*) her present age;

(*v*) if she has spinal tuberculosis;

(*vi*) (1) when she contracted this fell disease; (2) whether it is a fact that she got it while in detention formerly;

(*vii*) the report and recommendation by Dr. L. M. Banerjee on her illness;

(*viii*) whether it is a fact—

(1) that Miss Das Gupta prayed for release unconditionally or on parole for operation or plastering as recommended by Dr. Banerjee, and

(2) that there is difficulty of a female prisoner for proper treatment and nursing in detention under conditions of detention and away from the nearest and dearest ones of the family;

(*ix*) whether Government have refused to release her even on conditions;

(*x*) whether it is a fact that she still remains untreated as recommended by Dr. Banerjee;

(*xi*) whether it is a fact that she has got another place affected up in the spine, in addition to what she already has, and she finds it difficult to move about; and

(*xii*) if her weight has been reduced from 105 lbs. to 95 since she came to jail?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of reconsidering her prayer and releasing her even on conditions so that her life may be saved?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) 27th August, 1942.

(*ii*) She was a detenue before. She was arrested under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act on 1st March, 1932, and was in jail detention till 23rd April, 1936, when she was home-domiciled at 18, Southern Avenue, Calcutta. Afterwards she was released conditionally on 28th September, 1937, and was unconditionally released on 23rd May, 1938.

(*iii*) and (*xi*) No.

(*iv*) About 36 years.

(*v*), (*viii*)(1), (*ix*) and (*x*) Yes.

(*vi*) I have no information.

(*vii*) "I am of opinion that the disease should be treated by complete immobilisation of the spine either by a bone-grafting operation or alternatively by a plaster cast. This treatment would involve a period of several months which will be shorter in a grafting operation."

(*viii*) (2) I don't think so.

(*xii*) Yes, but she has since been gaining in weight

(*b*) In view of this question the Chief Minister has agreed to examine the case of this security prisoner for conditional release.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*), in view of the alarming condition of Miss Das Gupta's health, will the Government consider the desirability of looking into her case without the least possible delay?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, I have already stated that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has agreed to examine the case of this security prisoner with a view to releasing her conditionally and the matter will receive his very prompt attention.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Good!

Method of selection and details of persons appointed as agents or controlled shopkeepers in Khulna, Jessore and Murshidabad districts.

*288. **Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether Government have issued any instructions for the guidance of local officials in regard to—

(1) selection of district or subdivisional or local agents for the purchase or distribution of essential commodities under the direction of Government officials,

(2) issue of permits or licences under foodgrains control order, and

(3) issue of delivery permits by local Supply Officer to consumers of essential commodities like rice, *atta*, cloth, kerosene, oil, sugar, etc.; and

(*ii*) whether Government are aware that in the district of Khulna and in some other places the local officials are seeking to apply the communal ratio in the Services Rules for the selection of agents and controlled shopkeepers and even for the issue of delivery permits?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that in the town of Khulna certain persons have been granted delivery permits for sugar, kerosene, etc.; and

(*ii*) that they are selling the permits at a profit and raising some funds for a girls' madrassa and a Muslim institute?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the names, addresses and number of years the firm has been in the trade, of all persons or firms that have been appointed as agents or controlled shopkeepers in the districts of Khulna, Jessore and Murshidabad?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) (*i*) (1) and (2) Yes

(3) There are no definite instructions. Permits are issued on the merits of each case according to necessity.

(*ii*) Efforts are made to give fair representation to traders of all communities though 50 per cent ratio could not be strictly followed. Majority of traders are non-Muslims Suitability, standing of the trader and location of shops have also been kept in view in making the selection.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) A list is laid on the Library Table.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that persons who have never been in the trade previously have been given shops?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: There is not a single case like that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*c*), I beg to draw your attention that there is no statement laid on the Library Table. I just went to the Library and saw that there was none. So, I suggest that the question be held over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Why, Sir? May I submit that I took the statement from the Library Table with the permission of the Librarian, because the file did not reach me in time.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It was stolen away by my friend.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: No, Sir. I took it with the permission of the Librarian. If necessary, I may give it to him now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, do you want a copy now?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I went to the Library Table and saw that there was none. Therefore it is a lie to say that the statement is laid on the Library Table.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, I object to this kind of remarks.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: This habit of taking the statement from the Library Table was started by Dr. Sanyal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Parliamentary Secretary snatched away from the Library Table the statement which was intended for the use of members.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: With the permission of the Librarian only I took it.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: He says that he is ready to hand it over now to Dr. Sanyal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is my question and I am entitled to see the answer given.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: He has made allegations without knowing facts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If it is the opinion of the House that this question should be held over, it can be held over.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: This is his habit, Sir. He will unnecessarily put questions and make all sorts of allegations

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He had to take it away because he dared not leave it on the Library Table. Such nefarious acts are done by him. I suggest that the question be held over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is held over.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Why, Sir? He has just come. He cannot prove his allegations although he did not hesitate to make them.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it would be better if the question is held over.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In this connection may I submit that from now on more than one copy of the statement should be laid on the Library Table.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see to that. Next question.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Appointment of Scheduled Caste candidates as District and Sessions Judges in Bengal.

60. Mr. BIRAT CHANDRA MANDAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many members of the Scheduled Caste community, if any, are at present employed as District and Sessions Judges in Bengal; and

(*ii*) whether any appointment has been made from the Bar from amongst the members of the Scheduled Castes during the last 25 years?

(*b*) If no member of the Scheduled Castes has been appointed District and Sessions Judge during the last 25 years, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Hon'ble Minister is contemplating to recruit a Scheduled Caste gentleman as District and Sessions Judge from the Bar in the vacancy advertised for in the year 1942?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Caste Hindu candidates were previously recruited from the Bar and also 3 Muhammadan candidates were appointed recently as District and Sessions Judges from the Bar?

(*e*) If the answer to question (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the claims of the Scheduled Castes are superseded and sacrificed in this matter?

(*f*) What steps does the Hon'ble Minister think necessary to allay the grievances of the Scheduled Castes in the matter of appointment of District and Sessions Judge?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) There are no records to show the castes of the Hindu officers at present employed as District and Sessions Judges in Bengal, since their appointment was not made on the basis of any communal ratio

(*ii*) None since 1921 when the system of recruitment from the Bar was introduced.

(*b*) The Communal Ratio Rules have been introduced since 17th March, 1939. Prior to that date, direct appointments to the posts of District Judge were not made on communal considerations.

(*c*) The vacancy is reserved for a non-Muslim

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Does not arise

(*f*) Future vacancies to be filled from the Bar will be filled in accordance with the Communal Ratio Rules.

(Just after the next question was called the following took place.)

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: What is the position, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is held over.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, I object to this. He has said that the Parliamentary Secretary stole away the statement. I take strong objection to that. On the other hand, it has been his habit to take away papers from the Library Table, but he has come just now and said that I have stolen it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anyway, I will not take note of all that. Questions over.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: লজ্জা করে না, Ministerএর তোষামোদ করে বেড়াও।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am not in the habit of begging for a favour and I have never in my life begged for a favour. You must know that your Minister went on his knees before me for a favour. The other day you came to me for that purpose——(at this stage there was loud noise from both sides).

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

38—Medical.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 95,54,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical."

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 and I want to raise a discussion about——

(1) inadequacy in number of rural medical centres to cope with the daily increase of epidemics in different forms;

(2) insufficiency of supply of useful drugs and surgical accessories;

(3) insufficient number of medical officers to work at the time of epidemics;

(4) failure of the Government in the appointment of nurses in sadar and subdivisional hospitals after provincialization of the institution;

(5) inadequacy of supply of diet and medicines in the newly-started F.R.E. hospitals, and

(6) futility of keeping an I.M.S. officer in the districts as in Birbhum besides the Civil Surgeon in charge of sanitation of the district.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure my speech will be crying in the wilderness, as it has been in previous years. Knowing this fully well, I cannot but raise the discussions, being a representative of the public and having a bit of conscience still in me.

During the great havoc in 1943, when the Bengal province was in a precarious condition, Government failed absolutely to meet the requirements of the public. There was no food available Thousands of men and women were dying of starvation, epidemics of different phases spread from village to village, from house to house and from man to man, but medical help became rarer and rarer. Government arrived very late with a handful of help when lakhs of people lost their lives like cats and dogs uncared for and unattended to. Non-official organisations with their meagre capital came for help and saved the situation. In comparing the official and non-official medical units it has been proved that the latter was very popular and the former not so. Till now that situation stands unchanged.

The food problem having been partially removed, the situation did not change; the medical scarcity remains as it was before.

The epidemics though abated, the province is not free from them as yet and of all forms malaria took the lead, but there were and still there are, cholera, beri-beri, small-pox and other diseases doing severe mischief to the people of rural area particularly. Cities and towns naturally are better taken care of while other parts are left to their own lot.

The number of medical units which are now working are very very inadequate in number. The supply of useful drugs and surgical accessories are quite insufficient both in the permanent and temporary hospitals. When the epidemics were in their maximum height there was dearth of competent medical officers to work in the crowd.

In very few of the mufassal hospitals there is arrangement of nurses who only can look after the indoor patients. The F.R.E. hospitals, newly started, are very few in number and I have personally enquired into the internal management of the same and found them in a deplorable condition —no nurses, no sufficient drugs and no other men to attend the patient. The medical officer alone cannot cope with the heavy duties.

The sadar and subdivisional hospitals which have since been provincialised are in the same condition as they were before. The medical officer-in-charge and the clerks are overworked with heavy correspondence and the actual work of a hospital has automatically been neglected. There is one Captain Kelly, an I.M.S. officer, specially deputed in the district of Birbhum, who is supposed to be in charge of sanitation, running about at his sweet will in a military jeep doing what the public does not know of. I learn such officers have been deputed in other districts as well. Half a dozen of smart medical officers could have been appointed in place of such an officer, who could do more substantive work in the district. What I have stated are all facts. Will the Government take a little care and look into the actual state of things and see that the money allotted for the department is best utilized?

People having lost their vitality for want of food and good food, are naturally liable to fall victims to undesirable and serious diseases which have visited the province on a permanent basis. I wish at least the Medical Department is not so indifferently treated as was done in the case of others.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the next thing I beg to move is that the medical schools now existing in the province be immediately developed into medical colleges. My argument in favour of this is, I say, that it is not at all wise to keep the two different classes of men who are required to take on the responsibilities of the valuable lives of the general public. This will improve the condition of medical education in the province to a great extent and the masses will be able to get the benefit of better qualified doctors than at present. It is obligatory to the Government to provide for the right type of medical aid.

The medical licentiates, who are the products of the medical schools are neither recognised by the British Medical Council nor by the Indian Medical Council. It has been given out that five years' course should be the minimum period fixed for medical education. If the unfortunate licentiates are supposed to be inefficient, how can they be trusted with the lives of the citizens of the country? It is evidently desirable that their efficiency must be improved. In western countries there are no two separate classes of medical men. Why then this should be in our country? Are we to suppose that our lives have no value?

Other provinces, such as, Madras, United Provinces, Punjab, have already done away with the school education. Last year, nearer home, the Cuttack Medical School in Orissa, has been converted into a Medical College. Dow Medical School, Sind (Hyderabad), has also been converted into a Medical College as it is understood from an advertisement wanting professors for the Dow Medical College. It is also understood the Central Provinces and Bihar Governments are moving to convert the Nagpur and Darbhanga Medical Schools to the college standard. Bengal, where the first seed of allopathic education was sown is unfortunately lagging behind instead of being the pioneer. I wish and suggest the Bengal Government will rise up and make its medical education uniform and up-to-date.

There has been agitation over this subject for long, through the All-India Medical Association and the All-India Medical Licentiates' Association and I am informed that Bengal Government has taken up the matter and formed a committee to inspect the schools and recommend suggestions. I would request the Government to pay more attention to this and convert the Campbell Medical School into a college as early as possible before all other schools are taken in hand as an indication of doing things in the right direction.

Next thing, I beg to raise a discussion on is about the present condition of X-ray institutions in towns of mufassal. In some districts such institutions have been started, but it is a pity that they are not supplied

with sufficient number of plates for Skiagrams. So practically they are not doing the work properly. Moreover, the medical officers who are put in charge there are not really competent to take good photos and provide reliable reports.. X-ray department is more a diagnostic department. Treatment of cases will be based on the X-ray examination results. If the finding is incorrect the whole treatment will be useless. Under the circumstances special attention should be paid to this to remove difficulties.

The last thing I will disuss is about the inefficient management of the Calcutta Campbell Medical School. Of the teaching staff of the School all are not competent enough to do their duties. If sometimes a good man is transferred as teacher, he is suddenly re-transferred to some other place to accommodate a favourite of the Ministerial Cabinet without looking into the efficiency of the individual. In this way education is neglected and students suffer from this. In such institutions efficiency only should be the vital point in appointment of the teaching staff. I have reason to believe from information I have received that corruption is going on to the extreme in the hospital management. Sometime ago it was detected that milk, butter, loaves and sugar have been robbed privately in good quantities through the co-operation of the hospital staff but no action was taken in the matter. It is a pity to say that the man in charge of the whole institution is not competent to administer over the institution. Attempt is being made by him to infuse communal feelings among the students to keep the students separate.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for acceptance of the House.

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the inadequate grants to mufassal dispensaries and the failure of Government to start sufficient number of dispensaries in the interior.

With your permission, I want to speak in Bengali, because it will be more convenient to me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN : Sir, এ সম্বন্ধে কথা হচ্ছে এই যে আজ বহুদিন local board, district board প্রভৃতির সঙ্গে সম্পর্ক থাকায় আমার যে experience হয়েছে তা থেকে জানতে পেরেছি যে মফঃস্বলে যে সমস্ত dispensary আছে তার maintain করার joint responsibility Government ও district boardএর। মফঃস্বলে সাধারণতঃ তিন রকমের dispensary আছে। এক হচ্ছে union boardএর dispensary, আর local men দ্বারা managed dispensary, আর হচ্ছে district boardএর dispensary। এর মধ্যে কতকগুলি dispensaryকে Government বাৎসরিক ২৫০৲ টাকা করে দিয়ে আসছে; কিন্তু সেখানে যে সমস্ত Dispensary আছে, অন্ততঃ district boardএর chargeএ, তাদের maintenance-র ব্যয় আজ চার-পাঁচ গুণ বর্দ্ধিত হয়েছে। কিন্তু Government এ পর্য্যন্ত সেই proportionate increment এখনও দেন নাই বা দেওয়ার জন্য চেষ্টাও করেন নি। অধিকন্তু দেখা যায় এক বৎসর পূর্ব্বে ও গভর্ণমেণ্ট dispensary চালাতে যে quinine লাগে তাহার ৩/৪ ভাগ দিতেন। যদিও বলতে পারেন quinine Public Healthএর জিনিষ, কিন্তু Public Healthএর জিনিষ হলেও dispensary চালাতে quinine লাগে। So quinine is essential for a dispensary সেজন্য quinineএর কথা বলা আমার মনে হয়, এখানে irrelevant নয়। মফঃস্বলে একটী dispensary চালাতে যে ঔষধ লাগে, তার three-fourth লাগে quinine। কিন্তু District Rationing Authority এ বৎসর Jessore District Boardএ যা আমার অভিজ্ঞতা আছে, মাত্র ৫০ পাউণ্ড quinine দিয়েছে। আর সমস্ত quinine district boardকে কিনে নিতে হয়েছে। এর জন্য provincial authority অর্থাৎ Director of Public Health এবং Governmentএর সাথে আমরা correspondence করেছি। তার পর শেষ মুহূর্ত্তে Januaryতে বা December মাসের শেষভাগে এক চিঠি পেল D. Mএর কাছে যে union board

dispensary ও district board dispensaryতে quinine দেওয়া হোক। তখন District Magistrate চিঠি লিখলেন Subdivisional Officerদের কাছে। তাঁহাদের কেহ কেহ কিছু দিলেন আবার কেহ বা বললেন আমার কাছে যা ছিল তা নিঃশেষিত হয়ে গেছে। এই হ'ল district board dispensaryর কথা। আর যে সমস্ত private dispensary আছে সেগুলি কিরূপে চালিত হয় তাহা বলা বাহুল্য। Cheap popularity gain করবার জন্য Executiveরা হয়ত সেখানকার লোককে কিছু capital grant দিয়ে সেখানে dispensary খুলে দেন। District boardএর কাছে তাঁরা আসেন না। D. B.র কাছ থেকে যে একটী permission নেওয়ার আইন আছে যে D. B.র অনুমতি ব্যতীত কোন dispensary খোলা হবে না, সেটী কোনদিন নেওয়া হয় না। তারপর ঐ সকল dispensary ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডের উপর thrust করা হয়। District board কতকগুলিকে grant-in-aid দেন, আর কতকগুলিকে দিতে পারেন না। কারণ district boardএর আয় inelastic. Union board dispensaryর আরও funny জিনিষ। তার মানে হচ্ছে এই union boardএর dispensary, যেগুলি প্রথমে India Governmentর Rural Reconstruction Fundএর টাকাতে তার একটী বাড়ী তৈরী করে দিয়ে আর recurring grant দেওয়া হয় না। কি policyতে আমি জানি না। দুই বা তিনটী union board নিয়ে একটী union board dispensary করা হয়। সেটীও sufficient নয়। তাহার যে President থাকেন, সাধারণতঃ তার বাড়ীর কাছেই হয়। সেই সব dispensaryর president পরিবর্ত্তন হইলে শোচনীয় অবস্থায় পতিত হয়। নূতন Presidentর বাড়ীর নিকট না থাকায় উহাতে তাহার কোন interest থাকে না। তারপর সেই dispensary কোন বোর্ডের dispensary হয় না। দু-চার দিনের বেশী সম্পূর্ণ ভাবে সে dispensary চলে না। সুতরাং ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডের grant-in-aid নিয়ে তাকে চালাতে হয়। এই যে Governmentএর policy—একে condemn না করে পারা যায় না। একটী কথা আছে হাঁড়ি কিনে দিলাম, এখন যা ভাই চাল-ডাল কিনে রেঁধে বেড়ে খা-গে। এও হয়েছে তেমনি। Rural Reconstruction Departmentর টাকায় যেখানে building তৈরী করা হয়েছে, সেখানে dispensary recurring grant পায় না। সেখানকার লোকের নিকট হইতে ঐ Government প্রদত্ত capital grant ফেরত দিতে রাজী আছি। Government যদি recurring grant-in aid না দেয় তাহলে তা চলতে পারে না।

আপনারা সকলে জানেন Jessore district ম্যালেরিয়া প্রধান। সেখানে যে সামান্য dispensary আছে, তার পাশে পাশে satellite anti-malaria dispensary খোলা হয়েছে দুই বা তিন মাইলের মধ্যে। এর দ্বারা আমার মনে হয়, Government এই policy adopt করেছেন যে দুই-তিন মাইলের মধ্যে dispensary না হলে ম্যালেরিয়া-প্রপীড়িত লোক সেখানে উপস্থিত হতে পারে না বা ওষধ নিতে পারে না। আবার কোন কোন জায়গা এমন আছে যেখানে ৪।৭।৮।১০ মাইলের মধ্যে কোন dispensary নাই। ঐ সকল জায়গায় anti-malaria centre খোলা আবশ্যক বিধায় District Magistrateএর কাছে approach করলাম quinineএর জন্য তিনি মাত্র ৫০ পাউণ্ড quinine দিলেন। This is the situation in the interior of the province এই হল অবস্থা। এর দ্বারা বোঝা যায় যে মফঃস্বলে কত dispensary দরকার। পূর্ব্বে যে anti-malaria scheme ছিল, যে প্রত্যেক unionএ একটী করে dispensary হবে। সে scheme কোথায় চলে গেছে। যদিও সত্যিকার medical aid তার দ্বারা হয় না, তবুও কিছু প্রতিকার তার দ্বারা করা যেতে পারত। আজকাল যে সমস্ত destitute hospital করা হয়েছে, তাও এক একটী dispensaryর কাছে। কিন্তু interiorএ নয়। যশোরের কথা জানি -সেখানে malignant ও pernicious malaria এমনভাবে হচ্ছে যে ২৪ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে লোক মারা যাচ্ছে। সেখানে quinine পাওয়া যায় না। District Magistrate আমার কাছে নালিশ করলেন যে এক village dispensaryর medical officer দুই মাইলের মধ্যে আর একটী satellite dispensary খুলে দুই জায়গায়ই same sort of patients attend করে—খাতায় দেখাইয়া দেন। এইভাবে quinine কি করে তাহা জানি না। ঐ dispensary private management থাকায় ঐ medical officerকে বরখাস্ত করার ক্ষমতা আমার বা District Magistrateএর ছিল না। ইহা দ্বারা বুঝা যায়—এই satellite dispensaryর quinineএর দশা কি হইতেছে।

Srejut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about utter inadequacy of supply of medicine to areas affected by malaria and other epidemics.

Sir, কিছুক্ষণ পূর্বে ডাঃ শরৎ চন্দ্র মুখোপাধ্যায় মহাশয় তিনি ডাক্তারদের অভাব এবং ডাক্তারদের বন্দোবস্ত সম্বন্ধে যে সমস্ত দোষত্রুটি তা বর্ণনা করেছেন। তিনি ডাক্তার কাজেই ডাক্তারদের কথা বলা তাঁর পক্ষে সোজা। আর আমরা হ'লাম রোগী তাদের দিক দিয়া এই কথা মোটামুটি আলোচনা করব। এখন প্রথমতঃ এই Public Healthএর medical সম্পর্কিত বাজেট দেখে Governmentএর কাছ থেকে একটী আশ্বাসবাণী পাচ্ছি। সেটী হচ্ছে এই তাঁরা যে এক কোটী টাকা অতিরিক্ত বরাদ্দ করেছিলেন ঔষধ কেনার জন্য তার মধ্যে ৭৪ লক্ষ টাকার ঔষধ কম কিনেছেন। কেন তাঁরা কিনেছেন, তার কারণ দিচ্ছি।

"This is due to the reduced provision of items 2, 3 and 4 above. The requirement of mepacrine for sale to the public is expected to be considerably less in the coming year and only three months' provision has been included in respect of treatment centres for malaria and control measures for cholera and malaria in the hope that the epidemics will be brought under control early in the coming year."

অবশ্য আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এবং মন্ত্রী মহাশয়েদের সমর্থকগণ—তাঁরা এই কথা জোর গলায় বলতে পারেন যে তোমরা আমাদের photo নিয়ে সমস্ত বাংলা দেশ ও ভারতবর্ষ ও পৃথিবীতে বিলিয়ে দাও; তাতে দেখতে পাবে এক বৎসরে আমাদের চেহারা কি প্রকার বদলে গিয়েছে। দেখো আমাদের ব্যবস্থার ফলে কি প্রকারে বাংলার প্রতিনিধি আমরা, আমাদের চেহারা সুন্দরভাবে বিকশিত হ'য়ে উঠেছে। পোষ্ট আপিসে quinine সেবনকারীর যেমন চিত্র অঙ্কিত থাকে আমাদের মন্ত্রী ও তাহাদের সমর্থকগণের চেহারা তদ্রূপ হৃষ্টপুষ্ট হয়ে উঠায় quinineএর কাজ হয়ে গিয়েছে ধরা যেতে পারে। তখন আর সারা বাংলার চিন্তার বিষয় নাই। আর quinine লাগিবে না। Quinineএর কাজ আমরা সেরে দিয়েছি। এখন বাংলার অবস্থাটা কি? তাঁরা আশা করছেন যে সামনের বৎসরে জনস্বাস্থ্যের উন্নতি হবে। কাজেই তাঁরা ৭৪ লক্ষ টাকা এই ঔষধ কেনার খাৎ থেকে বাদ দিয়ে দিচ্ছেন। আরও একজন বলে উঠেছেন অতিশয় ঠিক। কেন ঠিক, সেটি আমি বলছি। গত বছর এবারকার বাজেটের সেই Finance Minister তুলসী চরণ গোস্বামী বলেছেন, আমরা আগে ঘোষণা করেছিলাম যে সামনের বছর দুর্ভিক্ষ হবে না। আমাদের ঘোষণাবাণী সফল হয়েছে। কিন্তু এ বৎসর দুর্ভিক্ষ যখন হবে না, তা সত্ত্বেও ৬৫ কোটি টাকার চাল-ডাল এমনভাবে চলাফেরা করেছে যে তার ফলে ১৩।।টি কোটি টাকা বানচাল হয়ে গিয়েছে। তা কোথায় চলে গিয়েছে তা বর্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী ও তাঁদের সমর্থকরা অবগত আছেন। দুর্ভিক্ষ হবে না জেনে-শুনেও ১৩।। কোটি টাকা যারা চালিয়ে দিতে পারে, তারা আবার আশা করছে যে রোগ কমে যাবে। তার আশায় তাঁরা ঔষধ কেনার ৭৪ লক্ষ টাকার বরাদ্দ বাদ দিয়ে দিয়েছেন। হেতুটি কি? আমাদের দেশে একটী কথা আছে। গরিব মানুষ যখন খেতে না পেয়ে সিঁদ দিয়ে ধনীর বাড়ীতে ঢোকে, সেটী হচ্ছে চুরি, আর আমাদের বাবু এবং মিয়াবা যখন দেশের প্রতিনিধি অর্থাৎ কর্তাকর্তা হয়ে মন্ত্রী অথবা মন্ত্রীর সমর্থক হয়ে বসে এবং লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের ধ্বংসস্তূপের উপর বসে বুভুক্ষিত নরনারীর মুখের গ্রাস কেড়ে নিয়ে তারা তাদের ভাগ্য নির্ণয় করে, তখন সেটি চুরি হয় না—সেটা হয় উপরি এবং তাদের বুদ্ধিকে বলা হয় চাতুরী। গরীবের মুখের গ্রাস কেড়ে, কোটি কোটি লোক যখন মরণের মুখে ছুটে চলছে ব্যাধির মধ্যে তখন যারা তাদের সেই ঔষধ কেড়ে নিয়ে তাদের সুস্থতা নিশ্চয় করে এবং লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা লাভ করে সেটি হয় উপরি। সমস্ত লোক বলে ওঠে বুদ্ধির বলিহারী। এই ৭৪ লক্ষ টাকা যদি বাদ দেওয়া যায় সেখানে কি লোকসান, এবং চাল খরিদে যদি ১৩।। কোটি টাকা ধ্বংস হয় তাতে বা কি লাভ যে সেটা আলোচনা famine সম্পর্কে যদি বলবার সময় হয় তা আমি পরে পুঙ্খানুপুঙ্খরূপে সে সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা করব। কিন্তু কথা হচ্ছে বাংলার অবস্থাটা কি? এক কলকাতা সহরে এই জায়গায় নানা প্রকারের চিকিৎসক, নানা প্রকারের ঔষধের ব্যবস্থা। বাংলা কেন ভারতবর্ষের মধ্যে সবচেয়ে বেশী। শুধু কলকাতায় ম্যালেরিয়ায় ভুগেছে এক লক্ষের উপর, আর সারা বাংলা দেশে দেখা যায়—যে কোন জায়গায় যাবেন—ম্যালেরিয়া ছিল না—শস্যশ্যামলা স্বাস্থ্যবান সমস্ত দেশ ছিল, সেখানে আজ ঘরে ঘরে ম্যালেরিয়া ঢুকে গিয়েছে। কলেরা ও বসন্ত কি ভীষণ আকারে আত্মপ্রকাশ করেছে বাংলার সর্বত্র। গত বৎসর ও তার আগের বৎসর দুর্ভিক্ষের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে মহামারীর যে তাণ্ডবলীলা চলেছে, তা কি একটুও কমেছে? ভগবানের কৃপায় গত বৎসর ফসল হয়েছিল খুব ভাল এবং কৃষকের অতিলোভ সরকারের দুর্বুদ্ধিকে কার্যকরী হতে না দেওয়ায় গত বৎসর দুর্ভিক্ষ হতে পারে নাই। কিন্তু মহামারীকে ঠেকায় কে? যেখানে ঔষধ ও চিকিৎসকের বন্দোবস্ত না থাকে যারা অনুদীন কাঙ্গাল, যাদের ঔষধ কেনার সামর্থ্য নাই, তারা যদি বিনা পয়সায় ঔষধ না পায়, তারা বাঁচবে কি করে? আমরা সংবাদ পাচ্ছি কত district board এবং সেখানের ডাক্তারখানা থেকে যে কত শত শত, হাজার হাজার পাউণ্ড কুইনাইন চুরি হয়ে যাচ্ছে পুলিশের রিপোর্ট দেওয়া সত্ত্বেও সেই সমস্ত মামলার কোন কনার

হচ্ছে না। কাজেই যেখানে quinine উধাও হয়ে যায় সেখানে গরীব রোগী কি প্রকার বিপন্ন হয় তা বর্ণনা করে বলার প্রয়োজন নাই। আপনারা জানেন যে কয়েকটী জেলা ম্যালেরিয়ামুক্ত ছিল তার মধ্যে বরিশাল একটী। যশোর জেলা ম্যালেরিয়ার জন্য বিখ্যাত ছিলই ২৪-পরগণাও আছে। কাজেই যেসব জায়গায় ম্যালেরিয়া আছে তাদের অবস্থাটা বাদ দিয়ে যেখানে ম্যালেরিয়া ছিল না সেই সমস্ত জেলার স্বাস্থ্যের জন্য সমস্ত বাংলা দেশ বিশেষভাবে অন্যের ঈর্ষ্যার কারণ হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছিল। সেই বরিশাল জেলায় যদি যাওয়া যায়, সেখানে অবস্থাটা কি? গত censusএ ৩০ লক্ষ থেকে ৩৬ লক্ষ লোক উঠেছে অনুমান করা যায়। এখন যদি census নেওয়া হয় ৪১ সালের পরে তাহলে দেখা যায় যে ৪১ সালের censusএ যে লোকসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি হয়েছিল তার চেয়ে কত লক্ষ লোক কমে গিয়েছে। দুর্ভিক্ষে যা মরেছে তার চেয়েও ২।৩ গুণ বেশী মারা গেছে এই ম্যালেরিয়ায়, বসন্তে ও কলেরায় (A voice: তাই পরিষদে লোক নাই)। হাঁ, পরিষদেও লোক নাই সেটাও ম্যালেরিয়ার দরুণ কিম্বা maladministration of something এ হয়েছে। এখন কথা হচ্ছে এই যে, এই ম্যালেরিয়ার দরুণ যে প্রত্যেক জেলায় জেলায় লোক মরছে, তা অস্বীকার করবার উপায় নাই। এখন ডাক্তারদের কথা বলছি। বহু ডাক্তার—এমনকি Government যাদের নিয়োজিত করেছেন, যারা গ্রামে গ্রামে ঘুরে বেড়াচ্ছে লোককে চিকিৎসা করবার জন্য, তারাই বলে আমাদের মুখ দেখলে ত আর রোগ সারে না, ঔষধ চাই। যদি Civil Surgeonএর কাছে গিয়ে বলি তিনি ক্ষেপে ওঠেন, বলেন আমার কাছে supply নাই, আমি কোথা থেকে দেব? কাজেই ধরে নেওয়া যায় quinineএর দরকার নাই। Government আশা করেন অতি শীঘ্রই বাংলায় আর ম্যালেরিয়ার চিকিৎসা করতে হবে না। আশার কারণ যদি এই হয়ে থাকে যে যে লোক বাংলায় আছে, তাদের চিররোগের অবসান হয়ে যাবে, ইহলীলা সাঙ্গ হয়ে যাবে, এইটা যদি তাদের আশার ভিত্তি হয়, তাহলে আমাদের Governmentকে বলছি তোমাদের সাধু ইচ্ছা পূর্ণ হওয়ার আশা দেখা যাচ্ছে। কিন্তু একটী কথা বলছি যে যে Governmentএর বিন্দুমাত্র দায়িত্ববোধ আছে চোখের সামনে দেখছে যে লক্ষ লক্ষ দেশবাসী ব্যাধিতে মরে যাচ্ছে যেখানে হিন্দু মুসলমানের কোন পার্থক্য নাই যেখানে percentage কসে অসুখ হয় না, ব্যাধি কোন percentage অনুযায়ী মানুষের ধ্বংসসাধন করে না, সে Government কখনও এমন উদাসীন থাকতে পারে না। যে Revised Estimateএর টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে তাতে দেশবাসীর মুখের গ্রাস কেড়ে নেওয়া হচ্ছে। এই পাপের শাস্তি দেশবাসী আজ না হোক কাল দেবেই দেবে।

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the apathy and negligence of the Government towards Ayurvedic culture, education and treatment in the province.

Every one is aware about the efficiency and utility of the Ayurvedic system of medicine. Though more than 80 per cent. of the people of this province resort to Ayurvedic treatment, Government have done nothing for development and recognition of this useful science. In 1921, Government had appointed an Ayurvedic Committee with a view to devising suitable measures for recognition and development of the Ayurvedic system of medicine. The specific recommendations were:—

(*i*) Establishment of a Central Ayurvedic College with hospital including one herbarium.

(*ii*) A research institute for collection and standardisation of drugs.

(*iii*) Establishment of Ayurvedic schools with hospitals.

(*iv*) Establishment of Ayurvedic charitable dispensaries in rural areas.

(*v*) Establishment of a General Council and State Faculty of Ayurvedic medicine.

But nothing was done by Government to carry out any of these recommendations. Subsequently, a few generous-minded people gave donations amounting to Rs. 7,750 on receipt of which Government promulgated a General Council and State Faculty of Ayurvedic Medicine, but they refused all financial help to the Council. On the other hand, when the State Medical Faculty and State Unani Faculty were established, these bodies received grants from Government, amounting to Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 4,000, respectively, for their preliminary expenses. Even the

existing Ayurvedic institutions and hospitals which were established by private efforts and have been continuing their existence with great difficulty for want of finance have not received up to this date, a single pie from the provincial funds and it is feared that they will fade out of existence within a short-time for want of financial help. In comparison, it may be seen what Governments of other provinces have spent for the Ayurvedic system of medicine.

Government of United Provinces.

Statement of expenditures incurred by Government on the development of the indigenous system of medicines during the last ten years from the year 1928-29 to the year 1937-38: In these ten years Rs. 4,35,767 was given as grant placed at the disposal of the Board for distribution among Ayurvedic dispensaries and institutions. A sum of Rs. 11,08,500 was allotted as grant to Ayurvedic and Unani schools and colleges. This is a recurring grant. A non-recurring grant of Rs. 5,000 was given and the grant allotted to the Board to meet office establishment and other relevant expenditure was Rs. 83,532.

Government of Madras

The expenditure on the Indian Medical School and Hospital during these ten years from 1927-28 to 1936-37 was Rs. 6,56,494-2-5 for school and Rs. 5,26,333-13-2 for hospital.

The grant paid to local bodies for the maintenance of Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries for four years from 1933-34 to 1936-37 was Rs. 9,794-1.

Then, Sir, the subsidies to medical practitioners and midwives in rural dispensaries of Indian medicine during these four years from 1933-34 to 1936-37 came to Rs. 1,97,078-10.

Government of Bihar

During the ten years from 1928-29 to 1937-38, a sum of Rs. 1,81,844 was given for Ayurvedic school and Rs. 1,45,004 for Tibbi school.

The Government of Bombay passed an Ayurvedic Act in 1938 and have taken up themselves the maintenance and working of the State Ayurvedic Faculty.

During the recent epidemics, when it was practically impossible to arrange for medical relief for want of necessary medicines, Government were approached by the Ayurvedic Faculty to utilise the services of Ayurvedic practitioners for the purpose, but the Government in consultation with the Surgeon-General and the Indian Medical Council refused to start any relief work on Ayurvedic lines. It is not understandable what led Government to consult either the Surgeon-General or Indian Medical Council neither of whom was expected to have any sympathy with the Ayurvedic system of treatment. Due to such apathy on the part of the Government towards Ayurveda, the establishment of the Ayurvedic Council has failed to serve any purpose. Though it was "State Faculty" yet the State has not taken any responsibility for its maintenance, far less its development. Even the Ayurvedic practitioners who are registered under the Council are not yet recognised by Government nor they have been given any status or privilege, but they are under the direction of Government required to pay a renewal fee every three years to continue their names in the Register—a system which exists nowhere in India. As a result, out of 8,000 registered Ayurvedic practitioners more than 6,000 have already cut off connection with the Ayurvedic Faculty by not renewing their registration. All these facts go to show that far from doing anything towards development of the Ayurvedic system of medicine, Government appear to be determined not to extend any help, direct or indirect, even to the Ayurvedic State Faculty which has come into existence after continued efforts of the Ayurvedic practitioners.

Repeated representations were made by the Faculty to Government for an annual recurring grant of Rs. 12,000 for its maintenance and development, but every time its request was turned down on the plea of paucity of funds, except a meagre sum of Rs. 1,000 which was granted during the year 1940-41. In course of the last Budget discussion when the matter was raised by Rai Jogesh Chandra Sen Bahadur, the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge informed the House that no grant had been made to the Ayurvedic Faculty, because none had been asked for but that still Government had given Rs. 1,000 for its help. He had further stated that this Faculty was not properly started and had not done anything and had not shown any tangible result. Whether these statements were correct, we can find from the following letter which the President of the Ayurvedic Faculty wrote on the 30th November, 1944, to the Hon'ble Minister from whom no reply has yet been received.

"D.-O. No. A-163.

DEAR KHAN BAHADUR, *The 30th November 1944.*

My attention has been drawn to a statement made by you on the floor of the Bengal Legislative Assembly on the 25th March, 1944, in the course of the last Budget discussion to the effect that no Government grant had been made to this Council, because none had been asked for, but that still Government had given Rs. 1,000 for its help (vide page 462 of Assembly Proceedings, 18th session, Volume LXVII, No. 3). You are further reported to have stated that the Faculties of indigenous medicine, which include this Faculty, had not been properly started and had not done anything, and had not shown any tangible result. If you have been correctly reported, I regret to have to point out that your statements were inaccurate and misleading.

As regards Government, I need only refer you to the following communications (duly acknowledged by Government) which were made on behalf of the Council asking for financial assistance:

Letters from the Council, Nos. 3442, dated the 27th September 1938, 6764, dated the 7th March 1939, 3878, dated the 21st June 1939, 5198A, dated the 19th September 1939, 1143A, dated the 18th December 1940, and 613A, dated the 29th April 1941.

As regards the Ayurvedic Faculty not having done anything or shown any tangible result, I would only refer you to section 10 of the Statute, and ask in what respects the Council has failed to discharge any of the functions which have been prescribed for it therein. The main functions are those mentioned in clauses (*a*) and (*b*), namely, the registration of Ayurvedic practitioners, and the holding of examinations, respectively. Both these functions have been and are adequately discharged. Clause (*c*) contemplated the Faculty advising Government and the general public in all matters relating to advance of Ayurvedic studies and medical relief. The Faculty has had occasion to advise Government on several such matters, but without any response from Government. The last occasion was when the Faculty advised Government to utilise the services of *Kavirajes* for medical relief during the recent epidemics. As regards clause (*d*), which empowers the Council to appoint sub-committee, this, of course, has been and is being done. The last clause deals with registration and control of Ayurvedic Pharmacies and Ayurvedic Charitable Institutions, but such control can be exercised effectively, only if statutory authority is given to the Council, but Government have not yet thought it fit to enact legislation to place the Council on a statutory basis.

In conclusion, I am to invite your attention to Government Resolution No. 1365Medical, dated the 15th May, 1942, which appeared in an official report, viz., the Triennial Report on the Working of Hospitals and

Dispensaries in Bengal for the years 1938-40, in which testimony was borne to the 'good work' which the Council had 'continued' to do during this period.

In fairness to the Council, I request that you may take the earliest opportunity to correct the misapprehension which may have been caused by your remarks in the Assembly.

Yours sincerely,
C. C. BISWAS."

This C. C. Biswas is the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Charu Chandra Biswas.

I hope that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge will take this opportunity to correct misapprehensions which have been caused by these remarks in the Assembly.

I should like to draw the attention of the Government to another important point, viz., the appointment of the President of the Council. The existing Council was due to expire in 1940, but was subsequently extended from time to time, the last extension having expired in July, 1944. The Council has been reconstituted but the new Council could not commence functioning as Government have not yet appointed the President. Why is this delay? There could not have been dearth of any suitable person when a man like the Hon'ble Mr Justice C. C. Biswas is in the Council. May we know what is going on behind the screen?

In conclusion, I appeal to Government to consider the whole matter in a dispassionate and sympathetic way and to extend their helping hand to the development of the Ayurvedic system of medicine by making provision for a recurring grant of Rs 12,000 per annum—a very paltry sum—for the Ayurvedic State Faculty and also by taking up immediately the other recommendations of the Ayurvedic Committee.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After Adjournment.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs 100 to raise a discussion about the maladministration in the Calcutta Medical College and Hospitals and the School of Tropical Medicine.

Sir, next to food, the subject or subjects that demand at least for this year, our earnest attention is medicine and in this regard a good deal has been spoken by previous speakers, but whenever we had demanded better facilities and larger amenities so far as medical treatments are concerned, the Government have come forward with the plea that there are not sufficient trained hands available in the country. Therefore, Sir, we have to go to the root of the whole thing, viz., medical education. In regard to medical education, the whole structure of medical education in the province depends upon the proper administration of the Calcutta Medical College, the premier institution for imparting medical education in the East, and yet, Sir, when we come to look at that premier institution from year to year, we notice a systematic deterioration not only in the teaching arrangements and the hospital arrangements, but also in the researches carried on in that field.

Sir, I had during the last few years tried through my cut motions and other observations to invite pointed attention to some of the drawbacks that appeared to me to be very important drawbacks requiring early attention of the Government. These drawbacks included the questions of selection of medical men, their appointments and postings, these include the question of the I.M.S. *versus* the B.M.S. and other civil medical men, the question of hospital requirements and requisites and last year, in addition to all these, we had to invite attention to the paucity of beds

due to the reservation of a large number of them for alleged war-time emergency. I had also occasion to invite attention to the want of medicines and the inadequate nature of the food supplied to patients and, last but not the least, I had occasion to invite the attention of this House also to the brazen conduct on the part of certain categories of medical men to poor patients and their relations and oppressions of various character.

I do not like to take that line of attack today although, as the Hon'ble Minister knows very well, none of those drawbacks has been fully removed and met. Sir, I shall try to go to the very root of the whole thing. I have thought and wondered why is it that in Calcutta and Bengal, the medical students are not coming out as successful as in other parts of the world and also in some parts of India and I have come to the conclusion that it is due to the method followed by us on British lines of selecting or permitting a sort of part-time medical teachers from the profession and from outside, who very often do not take that job seriously. If enquiries are carefully made, it will be revealed that many of the Professors of the Medical College do not attend to their lectures and do not take the students as the forerunners of medical treatment of the province. They take it as though it is an opportunity for them to advertise themselves still further in their personal professional aggrandisement and they do not take the medical teaching as the work of a savant which in the past some teachers of the Medical College gave an impression of. The British system has been to invite men leading in the profession to deliver lectures and to attend to hospital duties in medical institutions in London. But, Sir, in other parts of the world, there is a system of whole-timers engaged both in the hospital duties and teaching duties and research work These professors are renowned men and they have contributed to the advancement of medical science no less than a number of professionals I submit, Sir, that the time has come for the Government to examine whether it would not be better for this province to have whole-time medical men whole-time professors bereft of all leanings towards cases outside the Medical College Hospitals and their premises and one at least of the many evils that we are now noticing would be going away, viz., the attempt by patients to go to the professor's house first and offer him a fee in order to get entitled to have a bed in the hospital later on. I submit that this is a matter in which careful consideration of all aspects of the question must be made. I have heard from younger members of the profession who were during the last few years enlisted as visiting physicians and surgeons that the work that they have to put in honorary work is so onerous at times that they would be feeling happy if some remuneration, at least for the conveyance to and from the hospital were provided for. Although I do not claim that they should be paid regular salaries or remunerations, I believe there is a good deal of justification for providing some emoluments to cover the actual expenses by way of travelling or conveyance allowances to and from the Medical College of Calcutta.

After certain enquiries a few years ago, the post of the Principal and the Superintendent of the Hospitals, these two posts were separated. The result of that we had occasion to examine these years and I must submit that the expectation that we held out has not been fully satisfied. The time therefore has come to find out if we could not again revert back to the old system of having one pre-eminent and really learned man, a universally respected medical man, if not available in this country, from anywhere in the world to be brought over here on a very much greater remuneration, if necessary, and to make him both the Principal as well as the Superintendent of the Medical College Hospitals. The present Superintendent of the Hospitals, Colonel Murray, I should leave him at the hands of other speakers to deal with. Hardly any fault can be found

in the dictionary of human language which cannot be applied to this person. He is incompetent as a teacher, discourteous as a Superintendent, incapable as a supervisor of hospitals and last but not the least his callous indifference to the needs and requirements of the patients of the hospitals goes absolutely unbounded. A man of that character should have been removed long ago. If technicalities stood in the way, time is now approaching when he could be asked to retire, because his time is due to expire soon and I hope Government is not going to extend his term of office. Sir, associated with the Medical College had been the names of many glorious sons of Bengal and India and also many renowned professors of medicine. Cannot we do something to bring up the name of the Calcutta Medical College as one of the foremost institutions of the world by inviting the co-operation of such men who could again build up the reputation of this institution and of Bengal?

Sir, my time is drawing near. I would now deal with the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine which is an appendage, if not an adjunct, to the great institution that I have just dealt with. In the School of Tropical Medicine, we want to be installed persons of unimpeachable service in the cause of researches and not one who merely for his flattery to Government or for other questionable means and methods have gone ahead in the technical seniority of service. There is now a Professor of the School of Tropical Medicine who has shown himself a convenient tool at the hands of the present Government to deal with the Corporation of Calcutta in a manner most unscientific and unwarranted. That Professor who has been a Professor of Bacteriology could never claim to have done anything in the line of small-pox and in the manner in which he tried to examine or see or read the thermometer proved that he was incompetent even to examine how the heat inside an incubator can be examined. On his testimony one of the premier institutions and its medical department was sought to be condemned and ultimately it transpired that the lymphs that were being manufactured by the Corporation were very much superior to the lymphs that any Government institution in India had ever produced. I leave that controversy aside for the time being. This Colonel Pasricha again, I submit, is one of the few who had hardly any original researches of his own This Colonel Pasricha had gone out of the province for the time being. Well, we thought that we were relieved of that incubus and in his stead a renowned professor of Bengal, a gentleman of international reputation, had held the post of the Director of the School of Tropical Medicine, I mean Dr. Biraj Mohan Das Gupta. This Dr. Das Gupta might feel embarrassed if I plead his case here. I do not know him personally, but I have heard that he has had many original researches to his credit, and he has recently been offered an appointment in the London School of Tropical Medicine, and I am afraid, if any attempt is made to remove him from this post, this province is going to lose the services of this renowned medical research worker. He will go to London and on the other hand whom shall we get in his stead? If we bring in Colonel Pasricha and try to reward him for the services rendered by him to the Government of Bengal in their unholy *zid* that the present Secretary of the Department of Public Health with the assistance of the Director of Public Health, Bengal, tried to impose on the province generally and on the Corporation of Calcutta in particular, I do not know what misery will fall on this province. This Colonel Pasricha, I personally know, lacks many other qualifications that are needed for being Director of an Institute of that category. There is a proposal, Sir, that in the near future the School of Tropical Medicine will be handed over for administration entirely to the Province of Bengal. At the present moment the School of Tropical Medicine has got certain large contributions from other sources and it is only the Director's post that is under the control and appointment of the Government of Bengal. Hitherto we had occasion here in this House to

draw the attention to the manner in which non-Bengalis were freely given opportunities in the Institute not merely as research scholars and medical men, but also as humble demonstrators, and even 60 to 70 per cent. of the patients of that hospital, were recruited and obtained from the rank of non-Bengali residents of this city, and of the non-Bengali residents of the province to which the Director belongs, namely, the Punjab, had the largest number of beds during certain months occupied by the Punjabis. In proportion to the number of residents in this city that was a great scandal and after some time when the previous Director retired we had just had a sigh of relief for some time and there were patients coming in more freely and getting better opportunities for treatment from amongst Hindus and Muslims of this province. I am afraid that if this Colonel Pasricha is again installed or brought over there instead of a more competent man just because of the technical seniority in the I.M.S. service, things will again deteriorate so far as service to Bengalis in that institution is concerned.

I, therefore, plead that better sense should prevail over the Government and I hope that this Government, at least the Department of Local Self-Government and Public Health will have better balance in its administration, because, Sir, I have often found that there is a good deal of lack in the balance. Somebody loses balance and goes off his head somewhere for reasons unknown to us. I submit that there need not be that fear and let there be greater balance. If not the Minister at least the Parliamentary Secretary could give the department better balance and prevent somebody from going off his head.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about not providing any grant for the General Council and State Faculty of Homeopathic Medicine, Bengal.

Sir, তৈলবিহীন প্রদীপ জ্বালিবার বৃথা প্রয়াসের ন্যায় আমাদের বাংলা দেশের চিকিৎসা বিভাগের মন্ত্রী মহোদয় General Council and State Faculty of Homeopathic Medicineএর প্রতিষ্ঠানটী চালু করতে চাচ্ছেন। বিগত ১৯৩৭ সাল হ'তে ৭ বৎসর ধরে অনেক আবেদন-নিবেদন ও সাধ্য-সাধনার পর এবং জনসাধারণের যথেষ্ট আগ্রহ দেখে ১৯৪৩ সালে Government উল্লিখিত প্রতিষ্ঠানটী স্থাপন করেন। সর্ব্ব সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য উক্ত সমাচার "Calcutta Gazette"এ প্রকাশ করেন। প্রতিষ্ঠানটীর উপর অনেক দায়িত্বশীল গুরুভার অর্পিত হয়েছে যথা Homeopathic চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানসম্মত প্রথা অনুযায়ী শিক্ষাপ্রদানের ব্যবস্থা করা। ৩ বৎসর বা তদূর্দ্ধকাল Homeopathic চিকিৎসায় অভিজ্ঞ চিকিৎসকগণকে Registerভুক্ত করা। উক্ত General Councilএর নির্দ্দেশমত পরীক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করা। শিক্ষায়তন সহ রোগী সেবার জন্য হাসপাতালগুলি পরিচালনা করা প্রভৃতি অনেক কার্য্য চলছে। আজ পর্য্যন্ত ৩,০০০ চিকিৎসক Registered হয়েছেন।

এই প্রতিষ্ঠানটী রক্ষার জন্য মাত্র ১২,০০০ টাকা বাৎসরিক ব্যয় হতে পারে। কিন্তু সে বিষয়ে Government-এর মন কিছুই নাই। সামান্য Registration fee ছাড়া আয়ের অন্য কোন পন্থা নাই। দুর্ভিক্ষ ও বন্যায় আজ সারা বাংলা দেশ ভেসে চলেছে। খাদ্যের দুর্ভিক্ষ, বস্ত্রের দুর্ভিক্ষ, রোগ-শয্যায় শায়িত অচল অবস্থায় যখন জীবন-প্রদীপ নির্ব্বাণোন্মুখ হয় তখনকার একান্ত প্রয়োজনীয় পদার্থ ঔষধ বা প্রাণ তাহাতেও ভীষণ দুর্ভিক্ষ। এই দুর্ভিক্ষের ঠেলায় বাংলার মন্ত্রিগুলীর দোলায়মান তরীখানি বানচাল হবার আজ উপক্রম হয়েছে। এ সময় যদি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণ নিজ নিজ বিভাগীয় কর্ত্তব্যগুলির প্রতি সাধুতা ও সবল অন্তঃকরণের সহিত মনোনিবেশ না করেন, তবে তাঁদের কৃতিত্ব নাই। এই বাংলা দেশের ধ্বংস অবশ্যম্ভাবী। বাংলা দেশের জেলায় জেলায় ঘুরে এলে দেখতে পাওয়া যায় যে সর্ব্বত্রই চিকিৎসা ও ঔষধের অভাবে অসংখ্য লোক প্রাণত্যাগ করছে। বহু আবেদন-নিবেদনে যখন সংবাদটী শাসনকর্ত্তাদের কর্ণগোচর হয়, তখন তাঁরা অর্থ নাই, অর্থ নাই এই সুরে চতুর্দ্দিক কাঁপিয়ে তোলেন। এই দুর্দ্দিনে Government যদি গরীব গ্রামবাসীদিগকে রোগের গ্রাস থেকে বাঁচাতে চান, তবে দেশে দেশে, গ্রামে গ্রামে এই স্বল্পব্যয়সাধ্য চিকিৎসার প্রচলন একান্ত আবশ্যক। বাংলা দেশের লোক সংখ্যায়

অনুপাতে চিকিৎসকের অভাব যথেষ্ট আছে। Allopathic চিকিৎসা ব্যয়বহুল ও সে ঔষধ দুষ্প্রাপ্য ও অতীব দুর্মূল্য। এই অবস্থা দেখে আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করি তিনি যেন অচিরে Government স্থাপিত General Council and State Faculty of Homeopathyর জনহিতকর প্রতিষ্ঠানটীকে এই সামান্য ১০।১২ হাজার টাকা বাৎসরিক দান ক'রে রোগগ্রস্ত বাংলা মায়ের জীবন দান করেন। এই কয়েকটী কথা ব'লে আমি আমার ছাটাই প্রস্তাবটী অত্র সভায় গ্রহণের জন্য নিবেদন করছি।

Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about lack of control and supervision over the administration in the Medical College, inefficiency of the Superintendent of the College, mismanagement in the X-ray Department and ignoring the claims of lady students to have full facilities of training in the Eden Hospital.

Sir, the House has already had occasion to discuss the sorry state of affairs in the jails. We are presently concerned with another organisation of the Government, whose administration has become highly unpopular. I refer to the administration of the Calcutta Medical College and Hospitals.

As one of the visitors I have a very sad experience about this institution. It appears that the administration of these hospitals has been left entirely to the whims and fancies of the Superintendent Col. Murray who treats it as his own private property. Hs is not only unworthy of his position, but is positively discourteous. The place is full of such corruption and malpractices that more often than not urgent and needy cases are refused admission. If the Government are serious about it they can detect this corruption and fraud and set the matter right. We are always ready to co-operate with the Government if honourable co-operation is sought for.

Here at the Medical College, the administration functioning have been divided between the Principal and the Superintendent. This has created further trouble and confusion. This arrangement should go and the functions of the Principal and the Superintendent should be immediately combined.

I shall briefly enumerate some of the many grievances that exist. Patients cannot get admission into the Hospital for deep X-ray therapy unless they have privately paid fees to the Surgeon-in-charge. Private patients are given deep X-ray therapy without their names being entered in the admission register. Poor patients, therefore, suffer. One case of Anil Ray may be mentioned here. Though he was recommended deep X-ray he was not admitted on the plea that there was no room. This was a very urgent case. The Surgeon of the Ear, Nose and Throat Department thought that young as this patient was he had chance of recovery if deep X-ray treatment was available to him at the earliest opportunity. The Superintendent and his Assistant decided otherwise for reasons best known to them.

Sj. Nishitha Nath Kundu and I visited the X-ray Department on the 6th and 12th March, and we requested Dr. K. B. Ghosh, Surgeon-in-charge, to show us the admission register for the deep X-ray Department which Dr. Ghosh refused apparently at the direction of the Superintendent. We showed them the reply given by the Government to interpellations made on the 21st June, 1944, which was to the effect that visitors are entitled to inspect the registers but Col. Murray does not agree with that view. We fail to understand why registers cannot be open to inspection.

There is a circular order of the Government which definitely empowers visitors to inspect internal arrangements.

This order was placed before the meeting of the Visiting Committee held on the 8th March, 1945. It was brought to the notice of Col. Murray, but he is adamant and he would not submit to the wishes of the

Government and the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge. We have information about the serious wrongs which Col. Murray is practising in the Eden Hospital. But I refrain from mentioning them here. If the Hon'ble Minister is willing to hear about them, I shall tell him all about them. Sj. Nishitha Nath Kundu and I have submitted a written note to the Hon'ble Minister through his Parliamentary Secretary. I have tabled a short-notice question and I am expecting a reply. If the Superintendent refuses to co-operate with the Visitors, the Visitors will do their best to resign.

If you visit the Medical College Hospitals you will find great shortage in the staff of nurses. Nurses are overworked and patients are not properly attended to. The Superintendent has failed to do anything in this respect. With the increase of population in Calcutta there has been great overcrowding in the hospital. We found beds placed in the passages and doorways and in between the two rows of beds. I do not know if this fact of overcrowding has been brought to the notice of the Government by the Superintendent himself.

On the 6th March, we found Dr. K. B. Ghosh come to the X-ray Department at 9-15 a.m., though he is expected to attend at 8-30 a.m. This he could only do with the connivance of the Superintendent.

There are many more grievances to mention, but I have no time to do it. I shall conclude by mentioning some matters. Col. Murray has refused to give full facilities for training to lady students of the College. Miss Sabitri Chatterjee, M.B., who stood first in Midwifery, and Miss Urmila Das Gupta, M.B., who is the second Goodheve Scholar, have not been given a chance of acting as Senior House Surgeon to the Eden Hospital.

Col. Murray examined Miss Uma Guha, a security prisoner, who was complaining about serious uterine troubles. Col. Murray was so very careless in his examination that either he did not take as much interest as was necessary or due to his inefficiency as a Surgeon, he could not detect and diagnose the disease. He sent her back to the Presidency Jail, but after only two days her trouble aggravated endangering her life. I refer the Minister to starred question No. 128 replied to in this session.

Sir, we do take serious objection to the principle of appointment to teaching post according to communal ratio. This makes for a serious deterioration in the standard of teaching. It has now become a very common occurrence that responsible and important posts are filled up without proper advertisement, namely, Deputy Surgeon-General (two), Director of Veneral Diseases, and Transfusion Officer of the Blood Bank.

Sir, I am of opinion that the administration of the Medical Department is wholly unsatisfactory and requires immediate and urgent improvement in every way.

Mr. F. F. M. FERGUSON: Sir, I want to say a few words on the main demand. As you are aware, I have not spoken before in this House, and I am very glad therefore that this evening I should be speaking on a subject which, I believe, will command general support, namely, the lack of adequate nursing and hospital facilities in Bengal.

This party, Sir, has frequently drawn the attention of this House to the lamentable lack of adequate nursing arrangements outside Calcutta itself. Moreover, even in Calcutta, although in the main hospitals nursing arrangements do exist, honourable members are well aware that the number of the nurses and the arrangements for their training and conditions of service are very unsatisfactory. In our opinion, Sir, this state of affairs is almost entirely due to the unsatisfactory status accorded to the nursing service in India. Speaking generally, in Western countries women who take up the profession of nursing are recognised as

doing a very important public work and as a result are looked up to and admired although unfortunately I cannot say that that admiration has always taken the practical form of seeing that they get a salary commensurate with the responsibilities they assume. In India, however, the position seems to be quite different, and from my own observation during the last 25 years it seems to me that very often the Indian woman nurse is regarded as a little better than a menial and as a result it has been impossible to persuade the educated Indian woman to take up this nursing as a profession to any appreciable degree. The backbone of such civil nursing services as exist in this country has been provided by the Anglo-Indian community and under conditions of great difficulty and on very poor pay. Anglo-Indian girls have earned a debt of gratitude from the whole community for undertaking this responsible and humanitarian work.

Sir, in the opinion of this party this prejudice against the nursing profession can only be removed in two ways: first of all, by a most drastic improvement in the training and general service conditions of the nurses themselves and secondly, by most energetic counter-propaganda to remove once and for all the idea that the nursing profession is one to be avoided at all costs by educated and respectable women. Unfortunately, however, it seems to me that successive Governments have been far too apathetic and lethargic in this matter. In January, 1941, an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. B. C. Roy was appointed by the then Ministry to investigate the whole subject and report upon it. That committee reported in July, 1941, but since then, to use a modern colloquilism, it seems to me that more or less a complete black-out has been enforced upon the whole subject. It was not until June, 1944, that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge disclosed that the principal recommendations of that committee were as follows:

"The establishment of a central organisation to comprise two training institutions one in Calcutta and the other outside but not far distant.

Recommendations were also made for a complete syllabus of training for each class of nurses and for the rates of pay for pupil probationers and for the several grades of trained nurses and sisters". In spite of these recommendations the only action that seems to have been taken between 1941 and June, 1944, has been the establishment in 1943 of some sort of training scheme in the Campbell Hospital to train 100 Indian girls in nursing. You will see, therefore, that although the mills of God have always been famous proverbially for grinding very slowly, here is yet a case where the Government has shown itself fully competitive as regards complete lack of rapid movement, and to complete the story, when the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge was very naturally asked in February this year, when Government expected to complete their examination of the Special Committee's Report, he said this. "As soon as the return of more normal conditions makes it possible to give sufficient time to study the proposals with proper care and consideration." Sir, I really do not know what that answer means, but presumably it means that the Government have decided that the whole problem of hospital and nursing is one that can safely be shelved until the end of the war. If so, this seems to be an astonishing decision, because today I should have thought that the impact of war on the eastern boundaries of India and the subsequent grim struggle throughout Bengal with the widespread epidemics and disease that war and famine have brought in their wake would have convinced every one that this problem of nursing and hospitals is of the utmost urgency and one that brooks no delay.

Then, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the conditions that prevail in the sadar and subdivisional hospitals in this province as set out by the Minister himself on the 24th February this year in answer to a question in this House. He then stated—to quote his own words—that "Most of the hospitals were dirty and out of repair,

their staff inefficient and in arrears of pay, their stock of medicine and equipment inadequate, their furniture broken, missing and rusty". Sir, history does not relate, and the Hon'ble Minister has not told us, what happens to an unfortunate patient who through no fault of his own is admitted to one of these dirty hospitals, is treated by the inexperienced and underpaid staff, is dosed with inadequate medicines and finally is dumped into a bed which in actual fact proves to be missing! I am quite sure, however, that all members will agree with me that this is a most deplorable state of affairs and I would like to know what the Ministry are proposing to do to remedy it.

Provincialisation of the sadar and subdivisional hospitals which has been decided upon and which we wholeheartedly support will by no means provide the complete solution. It will be necessary for hospitals such as I have described to be completely re-equipped and completely restaffed with adequate nursing staff, but unfortunately a study of the budget provisions gives no indication that this has been allowed for There is a mention of maintenance, but there is no indication that the sum allotted for this will be sufficient to bring hospitals of the type, I have mentioned up to the standard required today. I would like to know what the Hon'ble Minister proposes to do in the matter What does he propose to do about the lack of nursing facilities and hospital facilities in this province and what action, if any, does he propose to take on the report of the Special Committee which, as I said, is already nearly four years out of date?

Before I sit down I would like to say just this I feel most sincerely that on this whole question of nursing and hospitals this House should be able to speak with one united voice Hindus and Muslims, Anglo-Indians and Europeans, we all have our different points of view on political and racial problems, and sometimes I am afraid, we find it very hard to agree on these, what I may call, man-made difficulties of this world we live in But there is one thing that we all have in common, every man and every woman here today, and that is that there is no one of us who knows from one day to the next, or even from one moment to the next, when we may not find ourselves in dire need of that care and skill and attention that can only be got in an adequately equipped hospital through the services of that devoted band of women who, sacrificing their own interests minister to the needs of suffering humanity. I hope, Sir, that the Government this evening with the united support of this House will decide here and now to tackle this long outstanding problem with that vigour and sense of reality which the whole question so urgently calls for. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Shah Syed GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : Sir, এই দাবীর উপরে আমি বলতে চাই যে নাজির-গোঁসাই মন্ত্রিসভা জনমতের চাপে বিভিন্ন জায়গায় কতকগুলি Famine relief Emergency Hospital খুলেছেন, Sir, যখন দেশে, রাস্তা-ঘাটে, পথে, ষ্টেশন platform প্রভৃতি নানা জায়গায় অসংখ্য লোক না খেয়ে, না দেয়ে পড়েছিল, মরতেছিল, সেই সময় জনমত তীব্রভাবে মন্ত্রিসভাকে চাপ দেয়, তার ফলে নাজির-গোঁসাই মন্ত্রিসভা Famine Relief Emergency Hospital খুলতে বাধ্য হয়েছেন, আমরা ভেবেছিলাম Famine Relief Emergency Hospital যারা দরিদ্র দেশের, দরিদ্র রোগীদের প্রকৃত সাহায্য হবে, কিন্তু Sir, যখন Famine Relief Emergency Hospitalগুলি কাজ আরম্ভ করলেন তখনই আমরা বুঝতে পারলাম যে এই Famine Relief Emergency Hospital যারা দরিদ্র অসহায় ও নিরাশ্রয় রোগীদের ওষধ-পথ্যের বন্দোবস্ত করা, এই দুর্গতদের সত্যকার সেবা করা, চিকিৎসা করা ও সাহায্য করা মন্ত্রিদের উদ্দেশ্য নহে, মন্ত্রিদের উদ্দেশ্য propaganda করা। কতকগুলি Famine Relief Emergency Hospital সম্বন্ধে আমি জানি যে reliefএর কত রকমের নির্যাতন ও corruption চলেছে, কিন্তু কর্তৃপক্ষ নীরব।

বোয়াখালী জেলার রামগঞ্জ, সোনাইমুড়ি, ভবাণী, লক্ষীপুর, বেগমগঞ্জ ইত্যাদি Relief Emergency Hospital ময়মনসিংহ জেলার টাঙ্গাইল কিশোরগঞ্জ হাসপাতাল উল্লেখ করা যাইতে পারে। Sir, এই সব

হাসপাতালগুলিতে প্রয়োজনীয় ঔষধের অত্যন্ত অভাব, আবার কোনটীতে ডাক্তার আছে compounder নাই, compounder আছে ডাক্তার নাই, যে শ্রেণীর স্ত্রী ও পুরুষকে নার্স নিযুক্ত করা হইয়াছে তাহাতে প্রত্যেকটী হাসপাতাল ব্যাভিচারের আড্ডায় পরিণত হয়েছে। Sir, dietএর ব্যাপারটা আরও দুঃখজনক, diet supplier ও contractor নাজিম-গোঁসাই মন্ত্রিসভার পোষ্যপুত্রের দল, যাহারা কেরোসীন, চিনি, আটা, ময়দা, কাপড় ইত্যাদির পাইকার ও dealer রূপে দেশটাকে ধ্বংস করতেছেন, সেই শ্রেণীর লোককেই কর্তৃপক্ষ অসহায় ও নিরাশ্রয় রোগীদের diet-supplier নিযুক্ত করেছেন। Sir দুধ, মাছ, মাংস, তরিতরকারী ইত্যাদি যে hospitalএতে যাহা বরাদ্দ আছে রোগীদের ভাগ্যে অর্দ্ধেকও জুটে না, ডাক্তার, compounder, নার্স, diet-supplier একযোগে সব ভোগ করে থাকে, Civil Surgeonকে জানাইয়াও কোন প্রতিকার পাওয়া যায় না। Sir, অনেক সময় দেখা যায় দরিদ্র রোগীকে তাহার প্রাণের মায়ায় ভিক্ষাবৃত্তি দ্বারায় অর্থ সংগ্রহ করিয়া হাসপাতালের ডাক্তার, compounder, ও নার্সকে ঘুষ দিয়া প্রবেশ করিতে হয়। Civil Surgeonকে জানাইয়াও কোন প্রতিকার পাওয়া যায় নাই। Sir, মহকুমা হাসপাতাল ও জেলার হাসপাতালগুলির ঐ অবস্থা, ওষধ নাই, ভাল ডাক্তার নাই, compounder নাই, নার্স নাই, নাজিম-গোঁসাই মন্ত্রিসভা রোগীদের সঙ্গে প্রতারণা ও অভিনয় করে চলেছেন।

Sir, নোয়াখালী জেলা হতে জনসাধারণ মন্ত্রিমহোদয়কে জানায়েছেন কিন্তু কোন প্রতিকার হয় নাই। Sir, district board হাসপাতালগুলির অবস্থাও অত্যন্ত শোচনীয়, উহার উপযুক্ত ঔষধের সাহায্য না পাইলে জনসাধারণের কোন উপকার করিতে পারিবেনা। নাজিম-গোঁসাই মন্ত্রিসভা নীরব চোরাবাজার নিয়েই ব্যস্ত আছেন।

Sir, আমাদের দেশে যারা হাতী-ঘোড়া পালে তাহারা মাহুত ও সহিস নিযুক্ত করে থাকে, মাহুত ও সহিস হাতী ও ঘোড়াকে control করতে না পারলে মালিক উক্ত মাহুত ও সহিসকে dismiss করে অন্য লোক নিযুক্ত করেন। Hon'ble খাঁন বাহাদুর জালালউদ্দীন যখন L. S.-G Medical ও Public Health Department ও তাহার কর্মচারিগণকে যখন control করতে পারছেন না তখন তাহাকে cabinet হতে অপসারিত করে উপযুক্ত লোক নিযুক্ত করা বুদ্ধিমান দলের কাজ হইবে।

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, of the token cut motions that have been moved against my demand some are general and some are particular. I shall not take any account of the last rabid speech of Mr. Golam Sarwar, nor will I try to give any answer to that. I take it to be beneath my dignity to do so.

Coming to the general question with regard to the madequate supply of medicines or drugs or expansion of medical facilities, I would just refer to token cut motion No. 28 of Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherjee which comprises many things. I can say with confidence, and I am sure the House will agree with me, that the medical budget of Bengal was normally not more than Rs. 54 or 55 lakhs and it is only during our regime that it has come up to Rs. 95,94,000. Not only that. During the last regime, they had never an idea of what was coming as an aftermath of famine and therefore the budget was very low. In 1944-45, we raised the medical budget to Rs. 62 lakhs and this year we have raised it to Rs. 95 lakhs apart from the expansion of medical facilities under famine relief, i.e., F.R.E. hospitals which account for a loan of Rs. 1,77,00,000. The figures themselves are important indication of expansion of medical facilities to an extent never dreamt of by the people of Bengal. I can give a picture dealing with a period of 9 to 10 months We have set up during this period 1,611 F.R.E. hospitals with 22,000 beds and 12,000 satellite centres and 250 mobile medical units. They are all for treatment on the curative side, and on the preventive side also there were 500 anti-epidemic vaccinators. This has been reduced to 200 now. I would not have mentioned this but for the fact that my honourable friend Mr. Waliur Rahman referred to it. Outdoor treatment has also started during the last few months in F.R.E. hospitals where it is needed. There has been no complaint of insufficient drugs and accessories in F.R.E. and other hospitals under Government supervision.

Then, Sir, with regard to doctors, the dearth of medical officers is a fact too well-known to the members of this House. We have got a population of 60 million people and we have not got more than 12,000

doctors, I say this by guess, whereas in Great Britain for 40 to 50 million people they have got about 64,000 doctors. So, if we want to extend medical facilities to all our people we shall require more doctors, but we cannot produce either doctors or nurses overnight. As regards Mr. Ferguson's suggestion about better nursing facilities, I shall come to it later on.

Dr. Mukherjee has also said that even after provincialisation of hospitals, the hospitals lack proper equipment. He must remember that we have taken up the scheme very recently and on a voluntary basis. Most of the hospitals have come, but some have not yet come. In the case of those that have come, we have already sanctioned grants for their improvements in several directions. You will find, Sir, at page 67 of the Red Book "The increase is due mainly to a full year's provision for the Scheme of Provincialisation of Sadar and Subdivisional Hospitals which is to be in force for a part only of the current year, and to the inclusion of a larger number of such hospitals within this scheme." There are very few sadar or subdivisional hospitals which were well-equipped from before, and so they have welcomed the suggestion of provincialisation. We have already sanctioned large grants for repair and improvement of hospitals, for replacing the broken furniture and getting accessories and other necessary things if they are available, but it is certainly not possible to expect in the case of these hospitals that in the course of a few months, the standard set up in Europe and United States of America will be reached here also. Our ultimate aim is to improve these hospitals according to a proper standard, so that additional facilities may be available both in the mufassal as well as in Calcutta.

As regards the other point regarding diet and medicines in F.R.E. Hospitals raised by Dr. Mukherjee's motion, he should know that even in F.R.E. hospitals diet formerly supplied was low. We have raised it in consideration of local conditions and they are now getting sufficient nourishment according to doctor's advice and there has been no complaint that the diet is insufficient. I may add that there are also advisory or visiting committees to look after these F.R.E. hospitals.

The other point taken by Dr. Mukherjee is with regard to posting of I.M.S. officers in Birbhum and other places. I may say that the medical officer in question is not an I.M.S. He is a Subdivisional Health Officer lent by the military, who is an I.A.M.O., i.e., Indian Army Medical Officer. You remember that we were in difficulties at that time owing to the outbreak of epidemics. The military came to our help and did all they could to supplement our resources. The Medical Officer in Birbhum is the Subdivisional Health Officer. We propose to have Subdivisional Health Officers in all subdivisions. It is admitted by everybody that the Subdivisional Health Officer in Birbhum has done very useful work.

The other point which he has raised, although he has not moved the motion, is the question of abolition of medical schools. I would like to tell him that the Government is anxious to improve the medical education. The problem could not be tackled before. There were some differences of opinion but at present it is agreed that there should be uniformity in medical education and that medical schools should be abolished. For the present the Medical School at Dacca will be turned into a Medical College as soon as we can. There is already an army hospital in Dacca University buildings. As soon as the army releases the said hospital we shall be able to give effect to our intentions.

With regard to the Calcutta Campbell Medical School also we propose to convert it into a Medical College. It is not possible to abolish all the medical schools at a time. There are at present 9 medical schools. It is not expected that all these 9 schools could be converted into Medical Colleges at once nor these so many would be necessary. After some time some of them will be raised to Medical Colleges and other may cease to exist.

With regard to the maladministration in the Calcutta Campbell Medical School, I may say that administration has improved under the present Superintendent. We have also increased the number of officers and staff required. I do not know whether Dr. Mukherjee raised this question on the basis of the circumstances of today or before the strike or shortly after the strike.

Coming to the cut motion of Mr. Waliur Rahman, I may tell him that the Government grant to village dispensaries is Rs. 250 and to thana dispensaries is Rs. 500. There were some dispensaries started out of the Rural Reconstruction Fund of the Government of India on the condition that no financial assistance should be given to them. How far and in what shape the Government will be able to render financial help to union board dispensaries and other dispensaries is under the consideration of the Government. The proposal of increase in the grant has not been mooted so long. We have up to this time not considered whether any increase from 250 to 500 is required. In our post-war schemes we intend to have at least one dispensary for one or two union boards, so that medical facilities might be near the door of every villager in the interior.

With regard to kala-azar centres in his own district already an annual grant is given. Sometimes medicines like Dr. Brahmachari's ampoules are also supplied.

With regard to Mr. Charu Chandra Roy's motion about the Ayurvedic Faculty which was started in 1937, I may say that at that time there was a distinct understanding that no financial help would be given to the faculty. We are anxious to include the Ayurvedic system of treatment in the post-war schemes. There is already one member of the Opposition on the committee. We will go into this question and see how far financial assistance can be given and how far it is possible to absorb this in our modern systems of western medicine in Bengal. But the difficulty is that this Ayurvedic system of medicine has not been thoroughly examined. There is opposition on the part of the Allopathic Medical Faculty and it cannot be put on the same footing as the Allopathic system of medicine. That also applies to the Unani and other indigenous system of medicine.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of making some payment to the Faculty so that it may live?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: We are considering how far we can do that. The difficulty is this. So far they took this Faculty on the distinct understanding that no financial assistance would be given. Rupees 1,000 was only given for initial expenses. At that time there were no application. In spite of the Medical Faculty having been started there is a reduction in the number of registrations and there is also a fall in their income.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you give us some idea of the amount of time you will take because there is another demand that has to be passed by the House today?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Not much! With regard to the cut motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal regarding the Medical College I may say his charges against officers are improper, nor they can be said to be true. The charges are made against officers who cannot answer them here. I do not think it is proper for members of this House to bring charges against individual officers who cannot defend themselves on the floor of the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You are here to defend them and to answer those charges.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: It has been the convention that any particular officers should not be named. He has said that there is maladministration which I repudiate. In spite of that I welcome his suggestion for combining the post of Principal and Superintendent. Nobody is more anxious than myself to put the administration of the Medical College on a sound footing and to make it really the best institution in India. I can tell the House that we have decided to combine the two posts. As a matter of fact the post of Principal and Superintendent of the Medical College was a combined one till Col. De was the Principal. And it was only for military exigency that the post was divided and Dr. U. P. Basu was made the Principal and Col. Murray was made the Superintendent. I know that if both of them had got private practice, it would have been difficult for them to give exclusive attention to their work. After that we decided to combine the posts again——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But don't bring in a European Linton.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Dr. Sanyal says, "Don't bring in a European". Sir, there is no question of bringing in a European, but in spite of my desire we are short of officers even among the Indians also. Dr. Sanyal has suggested to appoint an Indian but it is difficult to get a good man, European or Indian, even from outside. The question here is that the person who would be the Principal would only be the administrator there and not a professor. His attention will be directed to control and management——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is absolutely humbug. He is not the Secretary; he must be the foremost medical officer.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: With regard to the admission of poor patients into the Medical College Hospitals, I have said several times that we have had the rules framed and published so that the poor patients could get their admission according to priority and according to the nature of the emergency of the case, and that there should be no discrimination. As a matter of fact, it is not true that patients are admitted on the recommendation of Ministers and I for myself never recommend anybody for admission.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In that respect you are honest.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: At present there is not much complaint for poor patients. We have also increased 900 beds in Calcutta and the suburban areas for destitutes and other poor patients. So it cannot be said that we have not done anything for poor patients.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is your personal experience, because you often go to the hospital.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: In connection with items 16-17, regarding inefficiency of the Superintendent of the Medical College Hospitals, I have already answered that. With regard to the facilities for training of nurses I will now reply to the speech of Mr. Ferguson. Government is very anxious to improve the conditions of service of nurses and also to attract Indian girls to the nursing profession and for that purpose we have decided to appoint a Provincial Lady Superintendent of Nurses provision for which will be found in the budget itself. There is also an increased provision under this head due to an additional grant to the Calcutta Hospitals Nurses Institute to train nurses and to increased emoluments to probationary nurses and midwives in the Medical College Hospitals. I have given my best attention to raise the standard of the nursing profession and to offer facilities

with regard to the training of nurses. Our difficulty is that we do not get trained teachers for training nurses and that students also do not come forward to be trained as nurses, particularly from my own community which is very shy to take to this profession on account of the *purdah* system. That is also the defect, I think, with caste Hindus. I know that caste Hindu girls have joined the profession, but I know also that their conservative guardians do not like it. In these circumstances it is very difficult to improve or add to the strength of the nurses in a short time. However, the Government will give every consideration to the suggestion made by Mr. Ferguson.

With these words, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherji that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (1) inadequacy in number of rural medical centres to cope with the daily increase of epidemics in different forms; (2) insufficiency of supply of useful drugs and surgical accessories; (3) insufficient number of medical officers to work at the time of epidemics; (4) failure of the Government to the appointment of nurses in sadar and subdivisional hospitals after provincialization of the institution; (5) inadequacy of supply of diet and medicines in the newly-started F.R.E. hospitals; and (6) futility of keeping an I.M.S. officer in the district as in Birbhum besides the Civil Surgeon in charge of sanitation of the districts was then put and lost.

(When the result was just declared, Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal who was on his legs stated as follows:)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I got up immediately and wanted division, but you looked that side and declared the result.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In that case you can have an opportunity in the next item.

The motion of Maulvi Waliur Rahman that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the inadequate grants to mufassal dispensaries and the failure of Government to start sufficient number of dispensaries in the interior, was then put and a division taken with the following result——

AYES—40.

Abdul Wahed Bokainagari, Maulvi.
Abdur Razak Maulvi.
Aimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
Kumar Mr. Anil Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Shahedali, Mr.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.

NOES—22.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Halim Molla, Mr. Md.
Abdul Kader, Mr. (alias Lal Meah).
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Rankhali).
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.

Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rashood, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrah).
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah (Rangpur).
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Masud, Kazi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hussain, Mr.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, the Hon'ble Mr. Prembari.
Birkmyre Sir, Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Corsterphine, Mr. E. E.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Khan Bahadur (Mymensingh).
Ferguson, Mr. F. F. M.
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hodge, Mr. H. Rowan.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Leisk, Mr. John.
McIntosh, Mr. George, C.B.E.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, Rai Sahib Jagat Chandra.
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Motheld, Mr. J. N.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Morgan Mr. G., C. I. E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Taraknath, M.B.E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behari.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruf Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Norton, Mr. H. R., M.B.E.
Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Baroda Prosanna.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C.B.E.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. O., C.I.E.
Yousuf Mirza.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.
Zillur Rahman Shah Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 40 and the Noes 92, the motion was lost.

The motion of Sj. Narendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about utter inadequacy of supply of medicine to areas affected by malaria and other epidemics was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Charu Chandra Roy that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the apathy and negligence of the Government towards Ayurvedic culture, education and treatment in the province, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the maladministration in the Calcutta Medical College and Hospitals and the School of Tropical Medicine, was then put and lost.

The motion of Miss Mira Dutta Gupta that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs 100 to raise a discussion about lack of control and supervision over the administration in the Medical College, inefficiency of the Superintendent of the College, mismanagement in the X-ray Department and ignoring of the claims of lady students to have full facilities of training in the Eden Hospital, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Harendra Nath Dolui that the demand of Rs. 95,54,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about not providing any grant for the General Council and State Faculty of Homeopathic Medicine, Bengal, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad that a sum of Rs. 95,54,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" was then put and agreed to.

39—Public Health.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 94,68,000 be granted for expenditure under the "39—Public Health".

Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHAWMIK: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about failure of Government to distribute sufficient quantity of quinine and mepacrine in rural areas particularly malaria-stricken areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, গত বৎসর প্রায় ১২ লক্ষ লোক ম্যালেরিয়ায় বাংলাদেশে মারা গিয়েছে। এর মধ্যে অধিকাংশ লোকই মফঃস্বলের। এবং ম্যালেরিয়া preventible, curable disease যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট quinine ও mepacrine বণ্টনের ব্যবস্থা ভালরকম করতেন, তাহলে অনেক লোককে বাঁচান সম্ভব হত। আমাদের তমলুক subdivisionএ প্রায় ৭ লক্ষ লোক আছে। সেখানে যে পরিমান qualified ডাক্তার আছে, তা খুবই কম। মাত্র ৩৫টী qualified ডাক্তার আছে। সেখানে পাঁচটী District Board হাসপাতাল এবং পাঁচটী অন্য হাসপাতাল আছে এবং এখন আর ৩ টী হয়েছে। লোক যেভাবে ম্যালেরিয়ায় আক্রান্ত হচ্ছে, তাতে হাসপাতাল, health centre প্রতিষ্ঠা করবার যে চেষ্টা হয়েছে গভর্ণমেণ্ট পক্ষ থেকে, তা তুলনা করে দেখলে দেখা যায় চেষ্টা খুবই কম। Quinine সম্বন্ধে যে অভিযোগ তাহা গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে বন্দোবস্ত করেছেন হাসপাতাল, health centre এবং কিছু কিছু ডাক্তারের মারফৎ তাতে দূর হয় নাই। যখন ব্যাপক ম্যালেরিয়া হতে দেখা যায়, তখন রুগীদের জলপথ্য দেবার লোক থাকে না। আর যেখানে health centre হয়েছে, সেখান থেকে ঔষধ আনা সম্ভব হয় না আমরা গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বলছি এইভাবে quinine বিলি করলে সেটা unscientific হবে। এইভাবে চললে লোকের কাছে quinine পৌঁছিবে না। আমি গত December মাসে পাঁচ পাউণ্ড quinineর জন্য লিখেছিলাম। কাগজেও দেখেছি এবং Civil Surgeonর সঙ্গে দেখা হলে জিজ্ঞাসা করলাম এই রকম অবস্থা কেন। তিনি বললেন Public Health Department যে notice দিয়েছে, তাতে দেখা যাচ্ছে vendorএর মারফৎ quinine sale হবে। তাতে অসুবিধা ছাড়া সুবিধা হবে না। যখন লোকের অসুখ হয়, তখন সে ডাক্তারের আশ্রয় নেয়। এখন আমাদের দেশে ডাক্তার যা আছে, তা যথেষ্ট নয়। পাঁড়াগায়ে যে ডাক্তার আছে তাদের quinine না দিলে ম্যালেরিয়া সমস্যার সমাধান হবে না। আমরা জানি National Schoolএ পাশ medical schoolএ পাশ অনেক ডাক্তার আছে যারা registered নয়। আমি লিখেছিলাম তাদের quinine দেওয়া হোক কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় তাদের quinine দেওয়া হয়নি যেহেতু তারা unregistered ডাক্তার। কিন্তু লোক তাদেরই উপর নির্ভর করে। বাংলাদেশে এই রকম ব্যাপক ম্যালেরিয়া সত্ত্বেও গভর্ণমেণ্টের quinine এবং mepacrine বণ্টনের ব্যবস্থা অত্যন্ত খারাপ। এই কারণে দেখছি আসছে বছর যদি malaria হয়, তবে আরও বহু লোক ম্যালেরিয়ায় মারা যাবে। কাজেই malaria যাতে প্রতিকার করা যায় এবং সেইজন্য quinine যাতে পাওয়া যায় এবং সুষ্ঠুভাবে যাতে সেটা বণ্টন করা হয়, সেই জন্য আমরা বলব অনেক unqualified ডাক্তারের ভাল practice আছে, তারপর non-official যে সব প্রতিষ্ঠান আছে, যারা সেবার কাজ করে কিম্বা union board প্রেসিডেণ্ট মারফৎ আপনারা বিলি করুণ এমন ব্যবস্থা করুণ, যাতে প্রত্যেক ডাক্তার আবশ্যক অনুযায়ী quinine mepacrine পায়। অবশ্য কোন কোন ডাক্তার খারাপ থাকতে পারে তারা black-marketing করতে পারে কিন্তু তা থাকলেও তারা রোগীর জন্য কিছু কিছু দিবেই। ব্যাপক ম্যালেরিয়ায় ডাক্তারকে quinine দেওয়া সর্বপ্রধান কর্তব্য। কিন্তু আমি জানি তমলুক subdivisionএ অনেক ডাক্তার আছেন যারা চিকিৎসার জন্য কোন quinine পান না। কাজেই আজ মন্ত্রীমহোদয় যিনি public healthর দায়িত্ব নিয়েছেন, তার সর্বপ্রধান কর্তব্য হবে লক্ষ্য রাখা যাতে quinine ব্যাধিগ্রস্ত সকলের কাছে পৌঁছায়। Quinine পেতে হলে permit দরকার। Permit আনতে তমলুক

যেতে হয়। কাজেই S. D. O. যাতে permit দিতে পারে সেই ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত। ঔষধের শীঘ্র ব্যবস্থা না করতে পারলে রুগীদের কষ্ট হয়। কাজেই যখন malariaর দেশ উজাড় হয়ে যাচ্ছে এবং যখন malaria preventible disease, তখন যাতে quinine দেবার ভাল বন্দোবস্ত হয় এবং রোগীদের বাঁচিয়ে রাখা যায়, সেটা করা departmentর সর্বপ্রথম কর্তব্য হবে। এই বলেই আমার বক্তৃতা শেষ করছি।

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (1) inadequacy of quinine, (2) its distribution, and (3) black-marketing.

Sir, I must congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for his attempt to drive away black-marketing and proper distribution of quinine. But the other departments of the Bengal Government have propagated black-marketing so much that even in spite of best efforts, the Hon'ble Minister could not cope with that.

So far as the supply of quinine is concerned, it is admitted by all that the problem can only be solved either by increasing the production of quinine or by importing quinine from outside. So far as distribution is concerned, it is an irony of fate that the choice always fell on the man on whom suspicion comes from all sides.

So far as the Civil Supplies Department is concerned, there are allegations both by the Muslim League and also by the other persons against the Supply Officer of Chandpur. We brought them to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister concerned, and the Hon'ble Minister remarked "Because there is an allegation, he must be a good officer." So far as supply of quinine is concerned, there is objection against a particular person that he should not be given any chance of distributing quinine, but the choice always fell on that person. I do not know, Sir, the reason for this. The problem can easily be solved if Government appoint C.I.D. officers in every district to look after this and report whether the supply officers are really distributing quinine. Only a notice in the newspapers will be sufficient to stop black-marketing to a great extent. I again congratulate the Hon'ble Minister, because he has tried his utmost to stop black-marketing, but he could not stop it altogether because there is so much black-marketing in other departments.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, a great event has happened. Dr. Khan Sahib having taken charge of the Premiership of the North-West Frontier Province has immediately set at liberty Khan Abdul Gaffur Khan and all other Congress members of the Assembly who were also arrested. The order has been executed immediately. This is a Congress Ministry. Release Congress members here.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After Adjournment.)

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about failure of Government to cope with diseases such as cholera, small-pox, malaria, dysentery and skin-diseases.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,—বাংলা দেশে যেমন অন্নের অভাব তেমনি বস্ত্রের অভাব। অভাব-অনটনে বাংলার আকাশ-বাতাস আজ আচ্ছন্ন করিয়া ফেলিয়াছে। বাংলা আজ অভাবের তাড়নায় মৃত্যুর দ্বারে উপস্থিত। এই অভাবরাশির সম্মুখীন হইয়াও, এই সমস্ত খাওয়া পরার অভাব সহ্য করেও নিতান্ত ভগবানের দয়ায় বাঙ্গালী বেঁচে আছে। তার সামনে আজ আবার দেখা দিয়েছে আর এক বিপদ। অন্নবস্ত্রহীন বাঙ্গালী আজ ভীষণ ব্যাধিপ্রপীড়িত। বাংলা ম্যালেরিয়া প্রধান—একথা বহুদিন হতে দুনিয়ার লোক জানে। বাংলার ম্যালেরিয়া ত আছেই প্রতি বৎসরে এই দেশে ম্যালেরিয়াতে ১২ লক্ষ লোক মারা যায় বটে কিন্তু সেই ম্যালেরিয়াকেও অতিক্রম করেছে বাংলার বক্ষে কলেরা এবং বসন্ত। ম্যালেরিয়া রোগে যত লোক ভোগে একরা সত্য কিন্তু তার মৃত্যুর

হার, কলেরা এবং বর্তমানে বসন্ত যে আকারে দেখা দিয়েছে তার তুলনায় অত্যন্ত কম। কলেরায় যত লোক আক্রান্ত হয় এবং তাতে যে অনুপাতে মৃত্যু হয়, ম্যালেরিয়ায় সেই অনুপাতে মরে না। গত বৎসর এক বাংলা দেশেই কলেরায় মারা গেছে তিন লাখ লোক। এই বাংলাতে বর্তমান বৎসরে বসন্ত যে আকারে দেখা দিয়েছে এবং বর্তমান সময়ে বসন্ত যেভাবে বাংলার পল্লীতে তাণ্ডব লীলা আরম্ভ করেছে এবং গভর্ণমেণ্ট যেভাবে তার প্রতিকারের চেষ্টা করছেন যদি এইভাবে চেষ্টা চলে, তাহলে অল্পদিনের পর আমরা দেখতে পাব যে এই বসন্ত রোগে মৃত্যু অন্য রোগে মৃত্যু অপেক্ষা সংখ্যায় বেশী হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে। আমরা পূর্বে বসন্তে মৃত্যু যা দেখেছি, বসন্ত রোগের যে রকম আক্রমণ দেখেছি, এইবার কেন জানি না সেই বসন্তের আক্রমণ তদপেক্ষা সংখ্যায় যেন বেশী; তেমনি বসন্ত রোগে আক্রান্ত হলে পূর্বাপেক্ষা এইবার মৃত্যু হইতেছে বেশী। এ বৎসর ইহাতে এমনি গুরুতর-ভাবে আক্রান্ত হচ্ছে যে অধিকাংশ লোক মারা যাচ্ছে। এর প্রতিকারের যে চেষ্টা সে চেষ্টা কিছুই না বললেও হয়। যদি বর্তমানে গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই বসন্ত রোগের প্রতিবিধানের জন্য খুব ভালভাবে চেষ্টা না করেন, তাহলে বাংলার অবস্থা অত্যন্ত শোচনীয় হয়ে দাঁড়াবে। আজ আমাদের দেশের অবস্থা হয়েছে চলমান শ্মশান তুল্য। যে দেশ পূর্বে ছিল আমাদের কবিরা গেয়েছেন—সুজলা সুফলা শস্যশ্যামলা বাংলা—সেই দেশ আজ সুফলা বা সোনার বাংলা নয়; বাংলা আজ শ্মশান বাংলায় পরিণত হয়েছে। শ্মশানে যেমন কতকগুলি মড়া দেখা যায় এবং সেই মড়াগুলি নিয়ে চতুর্দিকে শিয়াল-কুকুর টানাটানি কাড়াকাড়ি করে থাকে এবং শকুনি-গৃধিনী তাদের মাংস খেয়ে যায় বাংলা দেশের জনসাধারণের অবস্থাও হয়েছে তাই। তারা আজ মৃতদেহের শ্মশানে বাস না করে চলমান অর্থাৎ কিনা তাদের জীবন্ত অবস্থায় তারা বাংলার শ্মশানে বাস করছে। আর বাংলার এক দল শিয়াল-কুকুর তাদের জীবন্ত দেহ নিয়ে টানাটানি করছে এবং অন্য এক দল শকুনি-গৃধিনী তাদের মাংস খাবার জন্য শেঁ করে এসে ঘাড়ের উপর পড়ছে। আজ রোগে তারা কাতর; খাদ্যের অভাবে, পরণের অভাবে তাদের দুরবস্থার শেষ নেই। এই অবস্থায় বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের কর্তব্য অতি গুরুতর, দায়িত্ব তাদের অত্যন্ত বেশী।

তারপর বাংলাতে আজ দেখা দিয়েছে আর একটা ব্যাধি আমাশয়। এই যে ফাগুন-চৈত্র মাস এসেছে, এখন মফঃস্বলে গিয়ে দেখা যায় অধিকাংশ স্থানে জলের অভাব দেখা দিয়েছে এবং জলাভাবে আমাশায় রোগের প্রাদুর্ভাব।

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to supply adequate medical relief in the rural areas. Sir, I don't think that any elaborate discussion is necessary to convince this House of the deplorable state of public health in Bengal. The Government report also admits that 18 districts are in the grip of epidemics. Some irresponsible bureaucrats put it in the mouth of the head of the province on the 21st of September, last that epidemics were on the decrease and things had improved. But you know, Sir, that Dr. B. C. Roy, the President of the Medical Council and the President of the Bengal Medical Relief Co-ordination Committee, showed clearly by quoting statistics of people in the grip of malaria, each month that the claim of Government was untenable. He has also shown that about three crores of people in Bengal were in the grip of epidemics, malaria, kala-azar, small-pox, etc. Sir, much has been said regarding the want of quinine and mepacrine. I need not dilate on that.

Sir, I do not doubt the personal honesty of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health. Therefore I will point out to him certain defects in the expectation that he will take necessary steps. Intensified public health work is necessary and I hope he will give no quarter to those who plead with him for complacency and who come and tell him that matters are improving. On the contrary daily the public health at least of rural Bengal is deteriorating beyond any chance of repair. Sir, in order to do intensive public health work, public co-operation is necessary. I tell the Hon'ble Minister that he is fortunate that an organisation in Bengal in which all parties are co-operating and doctors are co-operating under the name of the Bengal Medical Relief Co-ordination Committee of which the eminent physician of this province, Dr. B. C. Roy, is the President, is willing to help and if he has the interest of this

province and of the suffering people of Bengal at heart, he should not hesitate, he should not brook any opposition to utilise this organisation fully and effectively for the purpose of public health improvement.

Sir, we have heard of malaria, but kala-azar goes hand in hand and must be combated and I regret to bring to his notice that in centres where arrangements have been made for treatment of malaria the want of a few test-tubes to test whether it is a case of kala-azar or not is preventing those doctors to give any relief in kala-azar cases. Sir, it does not entail much expenses. I can tell the Hon'ble Minister that in some cases where the doctor-in-charge has brought them to the notice of the public, the public have supplied them and they do not cost much. I submit, therefore, that Government ought to make arrangements for the testing of kala-azar cases in all the rural health units. Then again I have seen that arrangements have been made for sinking of tube-wells, but when time is the essence of the situation, it is no use saying that tube-wells will be sunk. The question is how soon and not a day is to be lost in making provision for tube-well arrangements.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: অত সোজা নয়।

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: One from the Government benches says that it is not so easy, but I ask why it is not easy. If people have got the sense of responsibility those who take charge of the public health of Bengal have got to realise that they become guilty to the charge of man-slaughter by every minute, by every hour and by every day they are delaying to inaugurate this necessary help.

Then there is the question of making the F.R.E. hospitals more efficient. I must say that the establishment of these F.R.E hospitals in the out of the way places has given very great relief. Generally, the subdivisional dispensaries and other dispensaries are established at places which are accessible to people living in towns I would draw the attention of the Public Health Minister to the F R.E. hospitals in the interior and from wherever he gets a report that such a hospital has been efficiently managed, he will see to it that that hospital is made permanent. Unfortunately many of these are not functioning well.

Then there is another matter to which I should like to draw the attention of the Public Health Minister. I should like him to collect statistics of the number of outdoor patients treated in these hospitals and also the number of indoor patients and the results achieved, and particularly in areas which are inaccessible, where people when attacked with diseases cannot walk up 10 or 12 miles to the nearest railway or steamer station to go to a hospital, those places need his first and foremost care and attention.

With regard to the rural public health units which are also being run, I think a good deal of real beneficial work can be done by them. Sir, I had the occasion to emphasize and impress upon many of them that there are many houses where almost all the inmates of a house are down with malaria and they cannot even go to the nearest centre to obtain relief. These rural public health units ought to be organised and strengthened and there ought to be volunteers available, if not paid people, who would go and take medicine with them for the suffering families and give them the help that they need very much. My time is limited, Sir, and the blue light is there and the red signal will be coming soon but in the face of the red signal of the danger of death and extinction of the people of this province, I shall with all the earnestness that I can command ask the Public Health Minister who is honestly trying in many respects, so far as I know, to do his utmost, to insist upon the plans being carried out immediately; otherwise he will unconsciously lay himself open to the charge of man-slaughter in this province.

Mrs. HEMAPROVA MAJUMDAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of *Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the recent attitude of the Ministry and the Directorate of Public Health to boss over the Calcutta Corporation in the matter of vaccination which has created a dangerous confusion in the mind of the people as to how to gain immunity from attack of small-pox.*

Mr. Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, প্রত্যেকবারই দাঁড়িয়ে উঠে প্রথমে মনে হয় বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কাণ্ড-কারখানার কথা। আজকে এতক্ষণ যে Public Health সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা হ'ল, তারপর ঔষধ দেব কি, এই কথা মনে হয়। তাদের কথা বলতে গিয়ে আমি Corporation সম্বন্ধে এই কথা বলতে চাই যে Director of Public Healthই vaccinationএর ব্যাপার নিয়ে Government ও Corporationএর মধ্যে এই বিরোধ সৃষ্টির জন্য দায়ী। কারণ তিনি Corporationএর Health Officerকে তার অধীনস্থ কর্ম্মচারী মনে করেন এবং তার ইঙ্গিতমত Corporationএর Health Department পরিচালিত হউক এই তার ইচ্ছা।

২রা ফেব্রুয়ারী কয়েকজন experts Corporationএর Vaccine Laboratory পরীক্ষা করে এবং ন'টা lymph লইয়া যায়। ৩রা ফেব্রুয়ারী Dr. J. B. Grant পুনরায় Vaccine Laboratory পরীক্ষা করিয়া দেখিতে পান যে Corporationএর Refrigeration arrangements ঠিকই আছে। তারপরেও Dr J. B. Grantএর বিবৃতির উপর কোনরূপ গুরুত্ব আরোপ না করিয়া এবং Corporationএর lymphএর potency test না হওয়ার আগেই Corporationএর Vaccination Departmentএর উপর Ordinance জারী করা হয়। Government জন-স্বাস্থ্য ব্যাপারে বাস্তবিকই যদি উদ্বিগ্ন হইতেন, তবে Corporationএর lymph খারাপ বলিয়া press notification না দিয়া Corporationকে সরাসরি উপদেশ দিতে পারিতেন। কারণ এই ভ্রান্ত notificationএ জন-সাধারণ কিংকর্ত্তব্যবিমূঢ় হইয়া পড়িয়াছিল। ইহা হইতে স্পষ্টই প্রতীয়মান হয় যে Government Corporationকে হেয় প্রতিপন্ন করিবার জন্যই এই কাজ করিয়াছেন। যে কোনভাবে Corporationএর উপর আধিপত্য বিস্তার করাই তাদের দুরভিসন্ধি ছিল। ১৯৪৩ সালে কয়েকজন expert Government Vaccine Laboratory পরীক্ষা করিয়া বিবৃতিতে বলেন যে সেই Laboratoryতে ১৬টা defects আছে। সেই সব defect থাকা সত্ত্বেও Government lymph production বন্ধ করিয়া দেয় নাই। পরীক্ষান্তরে Corporation Laboratoryর সেই রকম কোন defect না থাকা সত্ত্বেও এবং নয়টা lymphএর মধ্যে ছয়টা lymph potency testএ ভাল প্রমাণিত হওয়া সত্ত্বেও Government Corporationকে lymph production বন্ধ করিতে বলে। এখানকার potency testএ যে তিনটা lymphকে খারাপ বলা হইয়াছিল, সেইগুলিকে countersign করিয়া মাদ্রাজ পাঠান হইয়াছিল। সেখান থেকে খবর আসিয়াছে, সেই lymphগুলি potency testএ ভাল প্রমাণিত হইয়াছে। এর কারণ কিছুই বোঝাযায় না। যাহা হউক যদি Corporationএর Vaccine Laboratoryতে কোন defect থাকিয়াও থাকে, তাহা মোটামুটি শোধবান এমন কিছু শক্ত ব্যাপার ছিল না। আগাগোড়াই Governmentএর ব্যবহার বন্ধুভাবাপন্ন নহে। এই বিরোধের জন্য প্রকৃতপক্ষে জনসাধারণই অসুবিধা ভোগ করিয়া থাকে। ২রা ফেব্রুয়ারী যখন lymph পরীক্ষার জন্য নেওয়া হয় তখন Corporationএর stockএ সামান্য lymph ছিল। Corporation নৈনিতাল থেকে lymph আনিবার ব্যবস্থা তার আগেই করিয়াছিল। এখনও নৈনিতালের lymph ব্যবহার করা হয়। কাজেই দেখা যায় Government তিলকে তাল করিয়াছেন। Governmentই, বিশেষভাবে Director of Public Healthই, এই অপ্রীতিকর পরিস্থিতির জন্য দায়ী। এক মুহূর্ত্তের জন্যও Government Corporationএর প্রতি সহযোগিতার মনোভাব প্রদর্শন করেন নাই। Government Actএ আছে ছয়মাস training না নিলে এবং সেই মর্ম্মে Vaccine Superintendentএর কোন certificate না দেখাইতে পারিলে কেউ Public Vaccinator হইতে পারিবে না। এই আইন থাকা সত্ত্বেও Government Ordinanceএর জোরে A. R. P.র staffকে দিয়া টিকা দেওয়াইতেছেন। অনেক ক্ষেত্রেই দেখা গিয়াছে যে Primary টীকাও উঠে নাই এবং কয়েক ক্ষেত্রে টীকা নেওয়া সত্ত্বেও small-pox হইয়াছে। দেখা যায় Government Ordinanceএর জোরে মানুষের জীবন লইয়া খেলা করিতে পারে। ইহাকে lawless law ছাড়া আর কি বলা যায়। Government mass vaccinationএর জন্য Corporationকে যে proposal দিয়াছিল, তাহা Corporation সানন্দে গ্রহণ করিয়াছিল এবং Government-কে উক্ত কাজের জন্য যে ব্যয় হইবে, তাহা Corporationকে advance করিতে বলা হইয়াছিল।

Government তাহাতে কর্ণপাত করে নাই। ইহাতে স্পষ্টই বোঝা যায় Government proposalএ কোন আন্তঃরিকতা নাই। কেবল মুখের কথায় দেশবাসীকে সন্তুষ্ট করিতে চায়।

Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, আর দুই-একটি কথা বলে আমি শেষ করব। এদের কি ব'লব, বলবার ভাষা আসে না। লোকে রাস্তার মাঝ দিয়া না গিয়ে এক পাশ দিয়ে যায় এখন আপনারা চিন্তা করে দেখুন, রাস্তার মাঝখান দিয়া কারা যায়। Sir Nazim রাস্তার একদিক দিয়া যান। আর আমাদের দলত্যাগী বিশ্বাসঘাতক যে দুইজন তারা একেবারে সোজা রাস্তার মাঝখান দিয়ে যাত্রা সুরু করেছে তাই আমি বলি যে আর কেন, গঙ্গার ধারে গিয়া যখন উপস্থিত হয়েছো, তখন সোজাসুজি গঙ্গায় ডুব দিয়ে যদি প্রায়শ্চিত্ত কর, তবে যদি দেশবাসীর অভিসম্পাতের হাত থেকে রক্ষা পেতে পার।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, items Nos. 32, 33, 45, 46 and 61 will not be moved. These motions cannot be taken up today. So, item No. 42 may be formally moved by Sreejut Manindra Bhusan Sinha.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Why these items will not be taken up? I canot understand.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister will take only 10 minutes for the whole reply.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, they may formally move.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, why don't you allow me three minutes' time?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may formally move your motions.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39 Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the insufficient grant for free distribution of quinine and mepacrine.

Sir, I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39 - Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the lamentable condition of tube-wells most of which have gone out of order specially in the district of Tippera.

Sir, I want to take two minutes' time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think in one minute's time you can give your description

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: No, it is impossible. I make a grievance of it against the Government and, if I may be allowed to say so, against the Deputy Speaker also for, Sir, we can sit for 15 or 20 minutes more. This is a matter which affects the vital interests of a large section of the people and if we are not serious about the matter, then it should be stopped. It is useless to talk for one minute only. I do not like to talk.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can talk for two minutes.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: No, I won't speak.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: That's all right.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: No, I say that is foolish that we cannot sit for 15 minutes more.

Miss MIRA DATTA GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the callousness of the Government, about the Maternity Homes in Bengal, where Maternity Home in every union is urgently necessary.

Sreejut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the appalling progress of leprosy in the district of Bankura and the pressing need for establishment of a leper colony for isolation and treatment of infectious cases as the only effective method to check the progress.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, কুষ্ঠ ব্যাধির বৃদ্ধির ফলে বাঁকুড়া জেলা অতি দ্রুত ধ্বংসের পথে এগিয়ে চলেছে সেই দিকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা এবং বিহিত ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করে ধ্বংসের পথ থেকে তাকে রক্ষা করা দরকার, এই কারণে এই প্রস্তাব আমি উপস্থিত করেছি। আপনি বোধ হয় জানেন ঐ জেলায় কুষ্ঠ রোগের প্রাদুর্ভাব এত দেখা যায় যে উহা ভারতবর্ষে কেন পৃথিবীর মধ্যে বিশেষজ্ঞের মতে, blackest spot—সব চেয়ে বেশী কুষ্ঠপ্রস্তস্থান বলে পরিচিত। ১৯১৮ সালের পূর্বে ঐ জেলায় কুষ্ঠ ব্যাধিগ্রস্তদের সংখ্যা নির্ণয়ে কোন রকম চেষ্টা হয় নি। ১৯১৮ সালে প্রথম চেষ্টা হয়। তখন District Magistrate চৌকিদারদের দিয়ে কুষ্ঠি গণনা করান। সে হিসাবমতে সমগ্র জেলার কুষ্ঠির সংখ্যা ৪,৭০০ হয়। তারপর ১৯২১ সালে যে census বা লোকগণনা হয় তাথেকে জানা যায় যে কুষ্ঠির সংখ্যা প্রতি লক্ষ লোকে ২৭০। ১৯৩১ সালের সেন্সাসে ঐ প্রতি লক্ষ লোকে প্রায় ৩১৪ জন কুষ্ঠি জানা যায়। কুষ্ঠির ঠিক সংখ্যা পেতে হলে ১৯২১এর censuss reportএ ইহা স্বীকৃত হয়, যে censussএর সংখ্যা দশ গুণ করলে পাওয়া যাবে। এবং census reportএ এই কথাও আছে যে ভারতবর্ষের অন্যান্য অংশের চেয়ে বাঁকুড়া জেলার কুষ্ঠির সংখ্যা সবচেয়ে বেশী। ১৯৪১ সালে যে census নেওয়া হয়, তাতে কুষ্ঠ ব্যাধিগ্রস্তদের সংখ্যা আলাদাভাবে দেখান হয় নাই। ১৯৩৪ সালে British Empire Leprosy Relief Associationএর কর্মীরা বাঁকুড়া জেলায় কুষ্ঠি survey করেন তাঁদের অনুমান যে বাঁকুড়া জেলায় শতকরা ৫ হইতে ৬ জন লোক কুষ্ঠি। অর্থাৎ যেখানে প্রায় ১৩ লক্ষ লোকের বাস সেখানে ৬০ হতে ৭০ হাজার লোক কুষ্ঠ ব্যাধিগ্রস্থ। কিন্তু এ হিসাবও সম্পূর্ণ ঠিক নয়। তার কারণ কুষ্ঠি মেয়েদের হিসাব পাওয়া যায়নি এবং কুৎসিত রোগ বলে বহু ঘরে লুকিয়ে রাখে, অনুমানে মনে হয় ১৩ লক্ষ লোকের মধ্যে অন্ততঃ পক্ষে এক লক্ষ লোক কুষ্ঠগ্রস্ত। এই রোগ কিভাবে বেড়ে চলেছে সংক্ষেপে তার আভাষ দিচ্ছি। যেখানে দশ বৎসর পূর্বে রোগীর সংখ্যা ছিল ৫ per cent. দশ বৎসর পরে সংখ্যা বেড়ে হয়েছে ৬ per cent. এই সত্তর হাজার কি এক লক্ষ কুষ্ঠিদের মধ্যে অন্ততঃ সাত হাজার বা দশ হাজার case হচ্ছে highly infectious. যদি প্রত্যেকটী case অন্ততঃ একজন লোককে infect করে, তাহলে বৎসরে দশ হাজার লোক infected হচ্ছে। রোগ এইভাবে বেড়ে যাচ্ছে। গোটা জেলা আজ তাই ধ্বংসের মুখে চলেছে। এ সম্বন্ধে বাঁকুড়ার Magistrateপ্রমুখ ব্যক্তিরা বাঁকুড়া থেকে deputationএ এসে Chief Minister Sir Nazimuddinএর কাছে কুষ্ঠ নিবারণের পরিকল্পনা একটি পেশ করে গেছেন। পরিকল্পনাটি হচ্ছে জেলায় একটা leper colony স্থাপন করা। Leperদের compulsory isolation করতে না পারলে এই ব্যাধির নিবারণ হবে না। এটা আমার কথা নয় এটা বিশেষজ্ঞের কথা।

Leprosy বিশেষজ্ঞ Dr. R. G. Cochrane, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H., "Indian Medical Gazette" এ লিখেছেন : "It cannot be too strongly stressed that leprosy cannot be controlled except by segregation. There is no other way in which this problem can be solved and the sooner it is realised the nearer leprosy will be controlled".

In another Conference in 1938, it was said: "It should be further emphasized that the control of leprosy is an inescapable responsibility of the Government concerned".

এই অভিমতের পর এটা বোঝান অনাবশ্যক যে compulsory isolation ছাড়া কুষ্ঠ ব্যাধি নিবারণ করা সম্ভবপর নয়। যে পরিকল্পনা বাঁকুড়াবাসীদের পক্ষ থেকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছে দেওয়া হয়েছে সেটা তাদের গ্রহণ করা উচিত। এই পরিকল্পনা কাজে পরিণত করবার ব্যয় আনুমানিক দুই লক্ষ থেকে তিন লক্ষ টাকা। যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোটি কোটি টাকা অপচয় করছেন, সেই গভর্ণমেণ্ট একটা জেলাকে রক্ষা করবার জন্য আজ তিন-চার লাখ টাকা দিতে পারেন না এটা আমরা মনে করি না। তাহলে এই ৩-৪ লাখ টাকা দান ক'রে গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাদের পাপের প্রায়শ্চিত্ত করুন।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: On a point of privilege, Sir. আমরা পাড়াগাঁ থেকে এসেছি। আমরা চিকিৎসা না পেয়ে ঔষধ না পেয়ে—এই Government এর দ্বারা মারা যাচ্ছি, একথা বলার অধিকার আমাদের আছে।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please sit down? In this matter I am absolutely guided by the Whips of different parties. Time is allotted not by me, but by the Whips of different parties. If it were in my hands and if you wanted to go on, I could sit whole night. But it is settled that the House would not sit more than 8 p.m. tonight and it is done according to the decision of the party Whips.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I admit that Bengal has not become a land of paradise although we have done our utmost to extend medical facilities and rural relief, but our anti-malarial measures have decidedly given definite results. If the honourable members look at the mortality figures of the province, they will find that the average mortality figure in Bengal was 11 lakhs previously and it rose to over 18 lakhs in the peak year of famine. The mortality figure in January, 1944, was as high as 1 million 10 thousand, but in December, even at the peak of epidemic seasons it did not go beyond 76,000, and in January, this year it fell to 52,000, and I received no complaint of shortages or difficulties in obtaining quinine and vaccine. This fact alone shows that we have brought the epidemic of malaria under control. So is the case of cholera. Cholera has shown improvement to the extent of going down below the normal of 6,000 in the month of November. As regards small-pox I admit that there are sporadic cases. It has not definitely gone down, but is steadily decreasing. In December, 1943, the figure was 5,660; in December, 1944, the figure was 2,230 showing a decrease of 3,430. So small-pox also is coming under control. The mortality figure in the peak months of the year 1944, compared to the figure in the month of January from 1938-42 shows only an excess of 10,000. So nobody can charge us that the result of the measures taken has not been satisfactory.

With regard to the distribution of quinine, a point has been raised that we have extended agencies in various ways. There are agents for sale and there are agents for free distribution. You will be surprised to hear that the annual consumption of malarial drugs was estimated to be 90,000 pounds, but we have raised this quantity to about 3 lakhs 77 thousand from year to year. Now, there is no complaint of shortage of anti-malarial drugs in any part of the province. Of course it might be that there is blackmarketing. After all there are human personalities. We cannot check it, but still in order to prevent blackmarketing and to see that the anti-malarial drugs are distributed in the inaccessible areas where you cannot approach, we propose to appoint Inspectors for checking the distribution of malarial drugs. In F.R.E. hospitals there are sufficient anti-malarial drugs and no complaint from any F.R.E. hospital has yet come that there is shortage of medicine. The F.R.E. hospitals have become so popular—they are emergency hospitals and we do not expect any member of the House to say that emergency should continue indefinitely—that Government propose to make them permanent. I have already referred to this matter in my speech under the head "Medical". I have already referred and therefore I don't propose to reply to this particular question raised by Mr. J. C. Gupta.

As regards the cut motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta regarding the insufficient grant for free distribution of quinine and mepacrine, I may say that for the coming year Rs. 40 lakhs have been provided—half for free distribution and half for sale. We expect to buy 150,000 lbs.

With regard to Mr. Shahedah's cut motion, I may point out that the violation of quinine rationing rules will lead to prosecution under Defence of India Rules and actually there have been such cases in Calcutta and mufassal. Cases of stealth from the district board were reported to the police and it is not the fault of this department if the offenders were not brought to book by the police.

Regarding the cut motion of Mr. Patiram Roy, I have already answered that, but I may add that so far as cases of dysentery and skin diseases are concerned, they are also treated in the Emergency hospitals.

So far as the question raised by Mrs. Hemaprova Majumdar is concerned, I do not propose to give any reply to that. Things have been published in the papers several times. I would only ask Mrs. Hemaprova Majumdar to refer to the second statement issued by Dr. B. C. Roy giving instructions to the Corporation in which in a way he practically admitted the correctness of the Government position.

So far as the question of grant for quinine and mepacrine is concerned, the members know that we have sent quinine through post offices which make it available to all. We have already provided for a grant of Rs. 25 lakhs for the current year against 22·52 thousand, out of which 23 lakhs have been spent against the normal grant of Rs. 5½ lakhs. The pre-war estimate of quinine was only 90,000 lbs., but we have raised it during the current year to 3,77,000 lbs.

With regard to tube-wells, the provision made for tube-wells was Rs. 44 lakhs for three years from 1941 to 1944, as compared to Rs. 27 lakhs for the previous five years. From February, 1944, to February, 1945, more than 22,000 tube-wells were repaired. In Tippera 150 tube-wells were repaired. It is not the fault of this department if more tube-wells could not be installed. The materials were supplied by us, but they have not been utilised. It was more the fault of the District Engineer.

With regard to maternity homes, there is a budget provision of Rs. 50,000 for this purpose. Any public body can start a maternity home under the provisions of this scheme. Government is prepared to contribute one-half of the capital cost up to a maximum of Rs. 3,000 and up to Rs. 4,000, if a type maternity ward is also provided. Pay of a health officer in the scale of Rs. 75—125 is also provided. It is dependent on the condition that the balance of the capital and recurring expenditure is found from local sources and necessary undertaking to this effect will have to be given by the local bodies or associations concerned.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: One minute, Sir. As regards the cut motion of Mr. Manindra Bhusan Sinha, I may say that there is a scheme for an isolation camp for one thousand lepers in Bankura, now under consideration

The motion of Dr. Gobinda Chandra Bhawmik that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about failure of Government to distribute sufficient quantity of quinine and mepacrine in rural areas particularly malaria-stricken areas was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Shahedali that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (1) inadequacy of quinine, (2) its distribution and (3) blackmarketing was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about failure of Government to cope with diseases such as cholera, small-pox, malaria, dysentery and skin diseases was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about failure of the Government to supply adequate medical relief in the rural areas was then put and lost.

The motion of Mrs. Hemaprova Majumdar that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the recent attitude of the Ministry and the Directorate of Public Health to boss over the Calcutta Corporation in the matter of vaccination which has created a dangerous confusion in the mind of the people as to how to gain immunity from attack of small-pox was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the insufficient grant for free distribution of quinine and mepacrine was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the lamentable condition of tube-wells most of which have gone out of order specially in the district of Tippera was then put and lost.

The motion of Miss Mira Datta Gupta that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the callousness of the Government about the maternity homes in Bengal, where maternity home in every union is urgently necessary was then put and lost.

The motion of Sreejut Manindra Bhusan Sinha that the demand of Rs. 94,68,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the appalling progress of leprosy in the district of Bankura and the pressing need for establishment of a leper colony for isolation and treatment of infectious cases as the only effective method to check the progress was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad that a sum of Rs. 94,68,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8 p.m., till 10-30 a.m., on Saturday, the 17th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 17th March, 1945, at 10-30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 170 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Held over Question.

(As soon as held over question No. 200 was called.)

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I submit that I read out the answer to this question yesterday and I do not think that it is necessary to read it out again. Of course, if there is any supplementary question put I am ready to answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is all right.

Deaths due to starvation in Bengal.

*201. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state that there have been many cases of death from starvation owing to scarcity of supply of food in Bengal, during April, May and June, 1943?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): The honourable member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 365 on the subject.

(Just at this stage Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal entered the chamber.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I have your permission to put a few supplementary questions to the previous one as I was detained by the police at Bhowanipore thana where a large number of people were in a queue before a shop and the police constables formed another new queue who got preference in the distribution of cloth from that particular cloth shop. So I had to wait till the Assistant Commissioner of Police came and I was detained to tell him everything, and then I rushed out to come to the Assembly. But I am sorry to find that I am a little late. I hope you will kindly consider the position and let me put some supplementary questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter which is certainly regrettable, there is no doubt about it. But will that justify my allowing you to put supplementary questions to one which has already been disposed of? You table another question and then put supplementary questions on that occasion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But this question was hanging fire for more than one year.

Mr. SPEAKER: But it cannot be helped. You will have to take other chance.

Flood-control Schemes.

*292. **Maharaja SRIS CHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) what are the main recommendations in respect of the development of the Damodar river, as made by—

(i) Damodar Flood Enquiry Committee as set up by the Government of Bengal,

(ii) preliminary report of Mr. Savage to the Government of Bengal, and

(iii) Government of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that all flood-control schemes as prepared by Bengal Engineers and recommended by the Burdwan Committee have been held up, pending the collection of further data for a "Multi-purpose" scheme sponsored by the Government of India; and

(c) whether the Bengal Government is prepared to push on its own schemes of flood-control, without further waiting for any "multi-purpose" project?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Sarada Prasanna Pain): (a) (i) Construction of concrete dams on the Damodar and its tributaries and thereby to control flood and produce electricity.

(ii) Multi-purpose development including construction of dams, hydro-electric power plants, irrigation, navigation and flood-control works, re-afforestation and other soil conservation measures.

(iii) Multi-purpose scheme.

(b) and (c) No separate survey for the multi-purpose scheme will be necessary and so no additional time will be needed and nothing has been held up. Information that will be required for the multi-purpose scheme is being collected along with the survey that has been undertaken for flood-control measures.

When the multi-purpose scheme is ready for execution, the flood-control portion of it will receive priority.

Medical treatment of Sj. Pryalal Sarkar, a security prisoner.

*293. **Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(i) that Sj. Pryalal Sarkar, a security prisoner now in Dacca Central Jail, and an inhabitant of Maisani in the district of Bakarganj, repeatedly petitioned for his treatment in Calcutta Medical College Hospitals personally and also through an M.L.A. to the Chief Minister;

(ii) that he also represented to Government for family allowance;

(iii) that the Civil Surgeon in Dacca Jail recommended for his treatment in Medical College Hospitals at Calcutta as proper treatment was not available in Dacca;

(iv) that an M.L.A., in a letter, dated the 1st December, 1943, reminded the Chief Minister of these facts, i.e., his treatment in Medical College Hospitals and grant of allowance for his family; and

(v) that the M.L.A. received a reply from the Parliamentary Secretary to the Chief Minister on the 13th December, 1943, to the effect that the matter was receiving the attention of the Chief Minister?

(b) If the answer to (a) (v) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been the result of his consideration?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMAD ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The prisoner has been granted a family allowance of Rs. 20 per month with effect from 1st April, 1943, and necessary orders have issued for his treatment as an indoor patient in the Medical College Hospitals.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to the reply in (*b*) that necessary orders have issued for his treatment, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where is this man now?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Secretary of that institution was written to for giving a bed to this prisoner but up to that time no bed was available. The prisoner was a candidate for the Intermediate Examination which commenced from the 15th February and therefore to give him facilities to appear at the examination the matter was a little delayed.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Opening of F. R. E. Hospitals and satellite treatment centres.

61. Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of additional medical centres;

(*ii*) the number of additional hospitals with beds that were opened from October, 1943, to January, 1944;

(*iii*) the names of the places where they were opened; and

(*iv*) costs, if any, incurred by the Government for the (A) staff and (B) medicine separately for such additional treatment centres and hospitals?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH (MEDICAL) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*i*) and (*iii*) A statement is laid on the Library Table (Statement I).

(*ii*) and (*iii*) A statement is laid on the Libraay Table (Statement II).

(*iv*) Copies of Government orders laying down the scale of expenditure on staff and medicine of F. R. E. Hospitals and satellite treatment centres are laid on the Library Table. Figures of costs incurred on each F. R. E. Hospital and satellite centre separately are not available. They cannot be compiled without involving excessive labour and cost in comparison with the value of the information sought.

Transfer of Executive Officers.

62. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether there is any rule, system or circular order regulating or providing for the transfer of Government servants or officers belonging to the Executive, Judicial, or the Police Service?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the rule or rules, system or circular order or orders;

(*ii*) whether there is any time-limit for the Executive, Judicial or Police Officers to remain at one particular station;

(*iii*) if so, what is the time-limit;

(*iv*) whether the rules, system or circular orders regarding the transfer have been applied in case of Maulvi Panaullah, Subdivisional Officer of Balurghat, Dinajpur, and Babu Baneswar Barman, C.I.D., Inspector of Police, Dinajpur;

(*v*) if not, the reason thereof;

(*vi*) when those two officers were posted at the stations they are in now;

(*vii*) whether Babu Baneswar Barman was in the district of Dinajpur in any other post or capacity before he was posted as D.I.B. Inspector of Police; and

(*viii*) if so, when, how many times and the period in each occasion?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*b*) (*i*) to (*iii*) There are no definite orders fixing a period during which Executive Officers shall normally remain in any station, but officers in the general line are not ordinarily kept in one district for more than three years.

(*iv*) Transfer of Maulvi Panaullah Ahmad, Subdivisional Officer, Balurghat, and that of Babu Baneswar Barman, Inspector, C.I.D., will be considered in due course. As regards the latter who is holding a specialist post, there is no rule or order about transfer.

(*v*) Does not arise.

(*vi*) Maulvi Panaullah Ahmad on 13th March, 1942. Babu Baneswar Barman on 28th October, 1932, as D.I.B. Inspector.

(*vii*) Yes.

(*viii*) A statement is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (b) (viii) of unstarred question No. 62.

(*a*) Kotwali police-station from 3rd January, 1918, to 28th June, 1918, i.e., 5 months and 26 days.

(*b*) Sadar Court from 27th January, 1919, to 5th July, 1919, i.e., 5 months and 9 days.

(*c*) Town Sub-Inspector from 4th September, 1919, to 30th December, 1922, i.e., 3 years, 3 months and 27 days.

(*d*) Kumarganj police-station from 31st December, 1922, to 14th March, 1923, i.e., 2 months and 15 days.

(*e*) Phulbari police-station from 15th March, 1923, to 10th October, 1925, i.e., 2 years, 1 month and 26 days.

(*f*) Kotwali police-station from 11th October, 1925, to 23rd April, 1930, i.e., 4 years, 6 months and 13 days.

(*g*) Pirganj police-station from 27th September, 1931, to the 27th October, 1932, i.e., 1 year, 1 month and 1 day.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Babu Baneswar Barman has been placed more than once in the district of Dinajpur as an Inspector of Police, Intelligence Branch Department, for more than the period that is provided in the rules?

Mr. SPEAKER: The second part of the question does not arise at all. There is no rule to that effect. The first part arises. You kindly repeat the first part.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for posting Babu Baneswar Barman more than once in the same district?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is for administrative reasons. I may inform the honourable member that the Chief Minister has issued instructions to the Inspector General of Police to transfer this officer out of the district.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there have been any cases in which a Subdivisional Officer has been allowed to remain for more than three years?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why in view of the fact that there has been a case against Maulvi Panaullah Ahmed——

Mr. SPEAKER: You are assuming that there has been a case. Because you know, you think that everybody knows. First, ask whether there is a case.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that a civil case has been instituted against Maulvi Panaullah Ahmed alleging that he was made the instrument in aiding the people to loot the paddy from the granaries of Tinkari Saha?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, the matter, I submit, hardly arises. But a civil suit is pending against the Government and the Subdivisional Officer of Balurghat and others for realisation of large sums of money on the allegation that about 4,000 men took away forcibly several thousand maunds of paddy from the granaries of a certain person at the instigation of the Subdivisional Officer.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that in taking advantage of his extended period of posting at Balurghat he is forcing the plaintiff to compromise the suit?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you are asking whether he is exerting undue influence on the plaintiff to withdraw the case.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Yes, Sir.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government are not aware of that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that he has refused to renew the gun licence of the plaintiff?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. The gun licence of the brother of Tinkari Saha was cancelled at the instance of the Superintendent of Police, and the Subdivisional Officer had nothing to do with this.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that Maulvi Panaullah Ahmed is taking advantage of his position as Subdivisional Officer in regard to the case, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to transfer him to another station?

Mr. SPEAKER: You are assuming that he is taking advantage, but Government do not admit it.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the allegations made by my friend Mr. Kundu, Government will consider the desirability of taking steps to enquire as to whether the allegations are true or not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. The matter is sub-judice but Government will certainly see whether the allegations are true or not.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: In view of the fact that a case is pending against him, will the Government consider to retain him there so that he may make necessary tadbirs to defend himself?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The matter is sub judice but Government will consider both sides of the question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that he being posted there for a longer time than is usual——

Mr. SPEAKER: Dates are there and the rules are quoted. So how does the question arise?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that he is stationed there for a long time he is also taking advantage of his position as Subdivisional Officer and granting licenses to his chaprasis to sell controlled articles.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is quite an irrelevant matter. That does not arise here.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of transferring Maulvi Panaullah Ahmad forthwith from that place in order to allay public suspicion that justice may be tampered with?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question of public suspicion does not arise. In reply to Khan Bahadur Abdur Rauf's question I have already stated that both sides of the question will have to be examined by Government.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the general rule of transfer after three years has not been observed in the case of Maulvi Panaullah Ahmad?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that there are no definite orders fixing the period during which Executive Officers shall normally remain in any station.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the exceptional reasons for retaining him in that place beyond the normal time of retention for ordinary officers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The normal time has exceeded by only four days.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that he was ordered to be transferred to some other station?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire whether his order for transfer was cancelled at his instance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated "I ask for notice". I do not know whether any order of transfer had been issued.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

42—Co-operation.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 19,11,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation".

Mrs. HEMAPROVA MAJUMDAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 19,11,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to organise handloom industry in the province on a co-operative basis.

Mr. Speaker মহোদয়, আজ আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, Cooperativeএর মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, গদীতে বসে বাংলা দেশকে যে দুরবস্থায় পরিণত করেছেন বস্ত্রের দিক দিয়া সেইটা আলোচনা করবার জন্যই আমি দাঁড়িয়েছি। মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের হাতে যে responsibility, যে দায়িত্ব দেওয়া হয়েছে তাঁর অমনোযোগিতা, উদাসীনতা অথবা স্বার্থপরত অথবা দুরভিসন্ধিবশতঃই হয়েছে; এর বেশী আর কিছু বলা যায় না। তাঁর কার্য্যকলাপের দরুণই আজ বাংলা দেশের নরনারীর উলঙ্গ অবস্থায় পরিণত হওয়ার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। কিন্তু এর মধ্যে একটা বিশেষত্ব এই দেখতে পাচ্ছি: আজ আমরা শুনতে পাই নাকি যে বিলাত হতে Manchesterএর কাপড় আমদানি হয়েছে। বাংলা দেশের সেই সময়কার কথা, ১৯০৫ সনে সেই বঙ্গ-ভঙ্গ আন্দোলনের সময়কার কথা, আজকালকার বাংলার তরুণরা হয়ত জানে না। কিন্তু যারা বয়স্ক তারা জানে যে এই বাংলা দেশে বিলাতী বস্ত্রের আমদানী কিভাবে এই বাংলা দেশকে পঙ্গু করে ফেলেছিল। Manchesterএর কাপড়ের উপর তাদের মা বোনের ইজ্জৎ নিয়ে ছেলেখেলা হচ্ছিল। Manchester যদি এদেশে কাপড় না দেয় তাহলে এদেশের মা ভগিনীদের ইজ্জৎ রক্ষা হয় না। এই অবস্থায় যখন পরিণত হ'লো তারপরে হলো স্বদেশী আন্দোলন। বঙ্গ-ভঙ্গ আন্দোলনের সময় বিদেশী বস্ত্রের boycott হয়। এটা অনেকেরই হয়ত মনে আছে। সেই কত লাঞ্ছনার ফলে কত অত্যাচার করে এদেশের তাঁত বস্ত্র-শিল্পকে নষ্ট করে দেওয়া হয়েছিল। তার ইতিহাস, জানিনা যারা Treasury benchএ বসে আছেন, তাঁরা সে ইতিহাস পড়েছেন কিনা, তাঁদের মনে সে ইতিহাসের কথা লেখা আছে কিনা, তাঁদের প্রাণে সে দাগ লেগেছিল কিনা, তা বলতে পারি না। এখন তাঁরা এখানে বসেন দেশের সমস্ত কথা ভুলে গিয়েছেন। East India Companyর সময় বিশেষ করে ঢাকা জেলার তাঁতীদের উপরে যে অত্যাচার হয়েছিল তাতে শুনতে পাই আমরা যে তাদের আঙ্গুল কেটে দিয়ে সেই industryকে নষ্ট করে দেওয়া হয়েছিল। আজ আবার সেই পর্য্যায়ে পরিণত হতে চলেছে দেশ। কাজেই যাঁরা সেখানে বসে আছেন তাঁদের শুধু এই কথাই বলবো, বলে কিছু হবে না জানি, হওয়ার নয়, কারণ যারা ঘুমায় তাদের জাগানো যায় কিন্তু যারা জেগে ঘুমায়, যাদের সব সময় দুরভিসন্ধি মনের ভিতর থাকে, তাদের কখনও জাগানো যায় না। আজ আমি শুধু কয়েকটি point আপনাদের দেবো যে এটা শুনলেই আপনারা বুঝতে পারবেন যে আমাদের কি অবস্থায় পরিণত করেছে। আজ আমাদের কাপড় নেই। কেন নেই? কেন আজ মায়েরা ঘর থেকে বেরোতে পারে না, আমাদের বোনেরা ঘর থেকে বেরোতে পারে না? এ পর্য্যায়ে কে ফেলেছে? আমাদের এই Government ছাড়া, এই Governmentএর দুরভিসন্ধি ছাড়া এবং যিনি এখন গদিতে বসে আছেন তাঁর দুরভিসন্ধি ছাড়া একে ত আর কিছু বলা যায় না। অন্য কোন পর্য্যায়ে একে ফেলা যায় না। আজ Manchesterএর কাপড় এখানে আমদানি হচ্ছে। আপনারা জানেন সকলেই যে সে দেশে, Manchesterএ, আজ তাঁতের অভাব হয়েছে। আজ আবার সেই দেশের কাপড় এখানে চালানোর ব্যবস্থা হ'চ্ছে। সেকালে যখন বাংলা দেশে স্বদেশী কাপড় বন্ধ করে, তাঁতের কাপড় বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হয় তখন এই Manchesterএর কাপড় কাঁধে করে করে এক টাকায় চার খানা আরো একখানা ফাউ এই করে ঘরে ঘরে মেয়েদের দিয়েছিল। সেই জিনিষ ছাড়াবার order? অনেক লাঞ্ছনার ভিতর দিয়ে—অনেক দুঃখের ভিতর দিয়ে হয়েছিল। আজ দেশের industry, দেশের mill দেশের তাঁতীরা একটুখানি দাঁড়াবার ব্যবস্থা করেছিল, এবং নিজের দেশের কাপড় দিয়ে নিজের মা বোনের ইজ্জৎ রক্ষা করবার চেষ্টা করছিল এবং হয়েও ছিল। আজ আবার আমাদের বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী গদীতে বসে নিজের দেশকে, মা ভগিনীকে ভুলে গিয়ে তাদের নিজেদের স্বার্থ সিদ্ধির জন্য দাঁড়িয়ে আজ আবার এতকাল পরে Manchesterএর কাপড় এ দেশের মা ভগিনীর কাছে আসছে; আমেরিকার কাপড় জাহাজে জাহাজে ভর্ত্তি হয়েছে। আজ আবার দেশের সেই দুরবস্থা; আজ আবার এ দেশের লোক সেই ১৫৲।১৬৲।২০৲ করে দোকানে কাপড় নেয়,--চোরা বাজারে গেলে পাওয়া যায়। সেই কাপড় কিনে পরবার মত অবস্থা আমাদের লোকের নেই। এই যে অবস্থায় পরিণত করেছে এ দায়ীত্ব কার? এ দায়ীত্ব Governmentএর আর এ দায়ীত্ব হচ্চে যিনি খুব দাম্ভিকতার সহিত বলেছিলেন একদিন যে আমরা গিয়ে এই ministryকে ভেঙ্গে আমরা দেশের ভাল করবো,--সেই যোগেন্দ্রনাথ মণ্ডল মহাশয়ের। তিনি আজ গদীতে বসে ভুলে গিয়েছেন যে তিনি স্বর্গে আছেন কি মর্ত্তে আছেন। তাঁর মা বোনের ইজ্জৎ, লজ্জা নিবারণ করবার যে ক্ষমতা তাঁর উপর পড়েছিল সেটা তিনি ভুলে গিয়েছেন। আজ দেশের তাঁতীদের, বিশেষ করে চাঁদাইল, ঢাকার তাঁতীদের, যারা সরু সূতা ছাড়া কাপড় বুনতে পারে না, তাদের সরু সূতা দেওয়া হয়নি। আমি আপনাদের সংক্ষেপে বলে দিচ্ছি, এ দেশের কাপড়ের কলের সংখ্যা ক্রমে বাড়িয়াছে। ১৯০৩ খৃঃ সমগ্র ভারতে ১৯৩৯ কাপড়ের কল, ৫৪৩,২৫৭টা চেকো ও ৪৪,০৯২টি তাঁত চলিত এবং তাহাতে গড়ে ১৮১,৩৯৯ জন কাজ করিত। ইহার ৪০ বৎসর পর দেখা যায় কলের সংখ্যা ৪ ১০,১৩০,৫২৮টি চেকো ও তাঁত। শ্রমিকের সংখ্যা ৫০২,৬৪০; কাপড়ের কলের সংখ্যা ৪। গত যুদ্ধ হইতে বর্ত্তমান যুদ্ধ এই সময়ের মধ্যে কাপড়ের কলের সংখ্যা আশানুরূপ বৃদ্ধি হয় নাই। কাজেই কলের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধির প্রয়োজন, অতি প্রয়োজন। যদি এই সময় Manchester আবার আমাদের লজ্জা রক্ষা

করিয়া আমাদিগকে লজ্জা প্রদানের সুযোগ লাভ করে তবে হয়ত তাহাই আবার ব্যবসায়ে Manchesterকে শিল্পে সুবিধা প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা হইবে। কাপড়ের কলের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি আজও সময়সাপেক্ষ। তাঁতের সংখ্যা বাড়ানো মোটেই অসম্ভব নয়। Government তাঁতীদের ব্যবস্থায় মোটেই উৎসাহ দেয়নি। East India Company একবার তাহাদের ব্যবসাকে পঙ্গু করিবার জন্য তাহাদের আঙ্গুল কেটে দিয়াছিল। এটাই এবারও দেখা যায় Government তাঁত ব্যবসায়কে পঙ্গু করার জন্য fine সূতা দেয় নাই। ঢাকা ও টাঙ্গাইলের তাঁতীরা fine সূতা ছাড়া কাজ করিতে পারে না। সমস্ত বাংলা দেশে, নোয়াখালি, চাটগাঁ, ত্রিপুরা প্রভৃতি সমস্ত জেলায় তন্তুবায়দিগকে আজ পঙ্গু করিয়া দিয়াছে। ১৯০৫ সালে বঙ্গ বিভাগের বিরুদ্ধে যখন আন্দোলন হয় তখন বিলাতী কাপড় বর্জন করেন। পুনরায় আমাদের বিলাতী কাপড় বর্জনের জন্য আন্দোলন করিবার সুযোগ এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী হয়ত দিবেন। আন্দোলন করিতে হইবে। Government ইচ্ছা করিলে বিলাতী কাপড় আমদানী বন্ধ করিতে পারিত। Governmentকে এ বিষয়ে সতর্ক করিয়া লাভ নাই। আমরা কাপড়ের ব্যবসায়ীদিগকে সতর্ক করিয়া দিতেছি যে তাঁরা যেন Manchesterএর সঙ্গে, America-র সঙ্গে কোন রকম চুক্তিবদ্ধ না হয়। এ সম্বন্ধে এ বিষয়ে সাবধান করিতে চাই। এই সঙ্গে আজ সেই স্বদেশী যুগের গান মনে পড়ে। আজ তাঁরা যদি সূতা supply করেন, এ দেশে Manchesterএর আমেরিকার কাপড়ের আমদানীর দরকার হয় না। মোটা হউক, সরু হউক, যতজন তাঁতি আছে ততখানি প্রত্যেককে যদি সমানভাবে সূতা supply করেন Government তাহলে আমাদের দেশের মা বোনকে আজ এমনিভাবে ঘরের ভিতর দরজা বন্ধ করে বসে থাকতে হয় না। তাই আজ এই গানের ইঙ্গিতে, সকলের বোঝা উচিৎ যে, আজ কারা কাদের ইঙ্গিতে এই Governmentএর উদাসীনতা, স্বার্থ সিদ্ধির দরুণ আজ আমাদের দেশের তাঁতীগুলির ব্যবসায়কে পঙ্গু করছে। এবং পঙ্গু করে mill ওয়ালাদের সঙ্গে চুক্তিবদ্ধ করতে যাচ্ছে। এই চুক্তিতে ভারতের তন্তুবায় নষ্ট হয়ে বিলাতী কাপড় আমদানী করে আজ আবার সেই মিলওয়ালাদের ব্যবসায়ীদের তাদের আবার চুক্তিবদ্ধ করবার চেষ্টা করছে। কাজেই আবার দেশবাসীদের কাছে এই নিবেদন হচ্চে যে তারা যেন সাবধান হয়ে সেই গান, সেই কবির গানের সেই সকল কথা মনে ভাবে। এখানে হিন্দু নেই, মুসলমান নেই; বস্ত্রের অভাব সকলেরই হবে এবং উলঙ্গ সকলকেই থাকতে হবে। আর আজ যদি Manchester এখানে পায়া গেড়ে বসে তাহলে আর ইহজীবনে, এ জনমে নয় কোন জনমেই বোধ হয় Manchesterএর কাপড়ের হাত থেকে, আমেরিকার কাপড়ের হাত থেকে, রক্ষা পাওয়া যাবে না। সেদিনের সেই গান, মায়ের দেওয়া মোটা কাপড় মাথায় তুলে নেবে ভাই, দীন দুঃখিনী মা যে তোদের এর বেশী তার সাধ্য নাই', এই দেশেরই গান, এই দেশেরই ছেলেরা রাস্তায় রাস্তায় গেয়ে গেয়ে বেড়িয়েছিল—তার জন্য আমাদের দেশে আবার সেই লুপ্ত শিল্প উদ্ধার হয়েছিল। আজ আবার আমাদের বর্তমানে সেই Treasury Benchএ যাঁরা আছেন, তাঁরা আজ ভাবতে পারছেন না ঘরের কথা, ভাবতে পারছেন না বাড়ীর কথা। তাঁরা এখানে বসে মনে করছেন এখানেই তাঁরা চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্ত করেছেন, তাদের আর জবাব দিতে হবে না এটা চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্ত নয়। চোরা বাজারের জবাব একদিন দিতে হবে। লজ্জা করে না আজ Governmentএ যাঁরা নাকি আজ শাসনভার গ্রহণ করে আছেন, তাঁরা চোরা বাজারকে বন্ধ করতে পারেন না। আজ control price যখন আরম্ভ হয়ে যায় দোকানে গেলে কাপড় পাওয়া যায় না, দোকানে গেলে জিনিষ পাওয়া যায় না, চোরা বাজারে গেলে সেই জিনিষ পাওয়া যায়। আজ Governmentএর লজ্জা করে না, যারা Treasury Benchএ বসে আছেন? আর কয়দিন পরে পুলিশের budget আসবে। কত টাকা পুলিশের জন্য ব্যয় হয়। সেই Government এত দুর্বল হয়ে পড়েছেন, সেই Government এত দায়িত্বজ্ঞানহীন হয়ে পড়েছেন যে তাঁরা চোরা বাজার বন্ধ করতে পারেন না। হাসির কথা নয়, তাদের লজ্জা করে না? তাঁরা দেশকে এমন অবস্থায় পরিণত করেছেন, এই বাংলাকে যে আজ কোন যায়গায়ই বাংলা দেশের মত এই রকম irresponsible Government বর্তমানে নাই।

আজ আর একটা কথা বলবো, আমি আর বেশী বলবো না। "আজ যদি এ জায়গা ছাড়ে তুলরাজ, কলের বসন বিনা কিসে রবে লাজ, ধরিবে কি লোকে তবে নিশ্বরের সাজ?" বাকল, তেলা, কৌপীণ এই সকল কথা সেদিন গান করে ছেলেরা রাস্তায় রাস্তায় গেয়ে বেড়িয়েছিল। আজ আমাদের আবার সেই লজ্জা নিবারণের জন্য তোমাদের মুখ চেয়ে থাকতে হবে। East India Company করেছিল সেটা সত্য হয়; তাঁর দেশের জন্য সে এখানে লুট করেছিল। কিন্তু আজ আমাদের দেশের যাঁরা তাঁরাই দায়িত্বভার গ্রহণ করেছে, যে খাওয়া পরার ব্যবস্থা করবে দেশবাসীর জন্য, লক্ষ লক্ষ কোটি কোটি টাকা মুনাফা করে দেশবাসীকে শান্তিতে রাখবে। এ দায়িত্ব আজ সম্পূর্ণ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর। আজ দেশকে, বাংলা দেশকে, তারা নানান ভাবে জর্জরিত করে ফেলেছে, ম্যালেরিয়ায় মারা যাচ্ছে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক; না খেতে পেয়ে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মারা যাচ্ছে; ওষুধ না পেয়ে লক্ষ লক্ষ মারা যাচ্ছে;

বস্ত্রের অভাবে গলায় দড়ি দিয়ে মরছে, মেয়েরা লজ্জা নিবারণ করতে পারে না বলে। আজ যারা এই Treasury Benchকে দখল করে আছেন, তাঁদেরও মা, বোন আছে, ভাবতে হবে। আমরা বিশ্বাস করি হিন্দুদের ইহকালে নয় পরকালেও এর জবাব দিতে হবে; কোন খানে রেহাই পাবে না। সুখ চিরদিন থাকবে না। পূর্ণিমার পরে অমাবস্যা আসে এবং অমাবস্যার পরে পূর্ণিমা আসে। বাঙ্গালীরা ব্রত ত্যাগ, লাঞ্ছনা, অত্যাচার সহ্য করিয়াছে, আজও ছেলেরা দেশের মুক্তির জন্য, এদেশের দুর্দশা দূর করবার জন্য বিনা বিচারে কারাগারের ভিতর বন্দী হয়ে আছে। উদাসীন, সম্পূর্ণ দায়িত্বজ্ঞানহীন Government! "লজ্জা নেই তাদের। তাই বলেছিলাম কালকে যে লোকেরা এক পাশ দিয়ে হাঁটে আর এঁরা দুই পাশ দিয়ে হাটছে। লজ্জা, মান, ভয়, তিন থাকতে নয়"। লজ্জা মান, ভয় থাকলে এ কাজ এরা করতে পারত না। তাই আজ সব মানের দায়ে ছেড়ে দিয়ে সব নির্লিপ্তে পথ চলছে। কথায় বলে যে "বেনাবনে মুক্ত ছড়ায় কে"।

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, may I address a few words?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not now. Let the other members move their motions first.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 19,11,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the maladministration of the department and failure to encourage Co-operative Distributing Societies for equitable distribution of essential supplies to the community. During the last 7 years in succession I had been trying to invite the attention of Government to the abuses both in the higher as well as in the lower ranks of the Co-operative Department leading virtually to a drying up of the entire stream of co-operative movement in the Province. Some of the more important matters of complaint were in regard to selection of staff on grounds other than efficiency; in regard to utter neglect of public requirements and of the local bodies and regarding the imposition of co-operative credit societies fed by officialdom from above over unwilling people in certain areas; the corruption and bribery openly spreading on within the ranks of certain classes of non-official and official workers in the co-operative movement. And last but not the least was the utter incapacity of the Government to realise their vast responsibilities in connection with the development of co-operative movement with a view to help the rural people both in regard to obtaining their credit as well as in regard to other matters through the co-operative movement to which immediate attention need be drawn. Sir, during the last year and the present year the country had passed through tremendous trials and tribulations. We had to set up through Government initiative a large number of buying as well as selling agencies and in that connection it is a sad commentary to note that the Co-operative Department of the Government of Bengal has played virtually no part. In regard to the Government's Food Purchase Scheme, the Co-operative Department could have done a good deal in obtaining the agriculturists' products without much abuse, as has been complained of by people at different places, and also in regard to the distribution of essential commodities like food, salt, kerosene, clothing and so on. The Co-operative Societies if properly constituted could have rendered great service to the community and I demand of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Department an explanation as to why that institution should not be utilised properly by the Civil Supplies Department of the Government of Bengal, and why the public, consumers and producers alike, could not have the benefit of co-operative organisations during the present emergency.

Sir, three or four years ago my esteemed colleague, Mr. Shib Nath Banerjee, pleaded fervently for multi-purposes co-operative societies being encouraged. He as a matter of fact pointed out specifically how in Howrah certain multi-purposes societies, which were doing very good work, were not given sufficient encouragement by Government. I invite the attention of Government to the speech delivered by Mr. Banerjee at that time and also to the subsequent series of questions that he had asked through you although he was not allowed to be present in the House during the last two

or three years. Since then attempts—very sporadic attempts—have been made at different places to start Co-operative Producers' and Distributing societies, but I regret to have to point out that even though the public at different places made emphatic demands of the local officials to assist these co-operative societies both in regard to purchase on behalf of Government as well as in regard to distribution, the local officials very seldom extended the help necessary. I believe the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Department himself was approached on numerous occasions and although he assured certain assistance from his side something happened which prevented him from exercising sufficient influence over the sister departments of Government, namely, the Department of Civil Supplies and the officials who were under the Home Department. May we know if there was any lack of co-operation or co-ordination that stood in the way or any other policy that the Government deliberately pursued in order to cripple the efforts of the public in setting up Co-operative multi-purposes societies which at the present moment are so very likely to give immense benefit to the people?

Sir, from a study of the amount allotted for the co-operative movement compared to the sums that had been frittered away on other departments it appears that the Department of Co-operation has not received even 1/10th as much attention as it deserves. From the actuals of 1941-42 which was only 16½ lakhs there has been an increase in the Budget estimate of 1945-46 to Rs. 19,13,000 only which is hardly an increase of Rs. 2,80,000. I ask compared to other departments of Government what happened which prevented the Government from allowing sufficient encouragement to the Co-operative Department although this was one of the nation building departments that was capable of doing great service to the community. Sir, I presume that there had been difficulties in regard to staff and schemes, but I also know that wherever co-operative societies have come forward with specific suggestions they have been given sufficient facilities. I have before me 3 instances from 3 parts of Bengal which will go to show how very scanty was the respect that was shown to the co-operative movement in regard to distribution of essentials. The first instance is that of Serampore Co-operative Society where a very large number of respectable men of Serampore had formed themselves into a society and had been thriving with the co-operation of some officials in the past. When the question of distribution of sugar and other essential commodities came up for consideration last year this society again appproached the Government as before as they had been serving as one of the few useful multi-purposes societies in West Bengal. Although the local officials of the lower grade were sympathetic the higher officials refused to recognise this distributing co-operative society for purposes of distribution of Government controlled stocks. A representation was made to the Hon'ble Minister and it appeared that something strange had happened. This society had a secretary or some official who was not very much liked by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department and the Mukerjeas of Uttarpara who are so very powerful that they did not like even the public to have their own way, through the co-operative society simply because one man there was not liked by the powerful zemindars of the place.

Sir, I bring to your notice another instance in the district of Tippera.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I have 5 minutes more, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, go on.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In the district of Tippera, Sir, something more interesting happened. The Chandpur Central Co-operative Society was allowed to take over Government's distribution in respect of standard cloth wholesale for the entire Chittagong division. Many Central Banks were allowed as local agents to distribute such standard cloth in

different districts of the Chittagong Division. At Brahmanbaria the Central Co-operative Bank of which the Secretary is Khan Bahadur Saidul Huq has been doing this work very satisfactorily and also to the satisfaction of the public. Unfortunately for him he has now become an *ex*-secretary of the local Muslim League. When he was the Secretary of the Muslim League there this institution was considered to be a very good organisation for distribution but when there was a difference of opinion between him and other members of the Muslim League, the local official, who is no less than a great relation of an ex-Minister of the Co-operative Department, in his enthusiasm went one step further than the Muslim Leaguers themselves and he thought that this Khan Bahadur Saidul Huq being no longer the Secretary of the local Muslim League must be penalised by denying the co-operative organisation with which he was connected all the privilege of distributing standard cloth. Such things happen in other parts also and it makes us believe that things are not run properly.

At Kushtia another interesting thing happened. Following certain suggestions of the Food Committee the local Subdivisional Officer had to accept the local co-operative society as one of the five or six distributing agents of cloth and along with that a secret arrangement was made by that Subdivisional Officer with one Hariram Goenka, a rich Marwari of that place, that he would get fifty per cent. of the profit out of that transaction. The Co-operative Society was not supposed to have sufficient finance, and Hariram Goenka was associated with that bank. It was arranged that the Co-operative bank would be the agent and Hariram Goenka would be its financier and that he would, in return, get 50 per cent. of the total profit. Such things are happening in different parts of the country and I submit that the time has come when Government should take active initiative in the matter for the purpose of setting up multi-purposes co-operative societies. I feel that not only during this emergency but also after that it is through joint action of the people of every locality, either through the co-operative movement or through any other movement which at present is in the offing but which some day may pervade throughout the country, that salvation will come. I think it is to the interests of the Government of Bengal and that of India to see that the deluge may not come and that early steps are taken to encourage co-operation amongst the people through which alone they can ensure better distribution and more equitable systems of governmental control being exercised. Government has been increasingly entering into the market for purchase, sales and distribution and in all these connections it is only the co-operative bank that can show the right way. I assure from this side of the House full support to the Government if they take this up and endeavour in organising the local co-operative societies on the lines of the dharmagolas and set up an example to the people to form themselves into associations and organisations of their own for the purpose of obtaining various commodities. The latest bungle has been in connection with the distribution of yarn to weavers. The co-operative societies have been technically asked to help in the distribution by forming local co-operative unions of weavers. I know of one example at Malda where the Co-operative Department had tried to get a number of weavers to form themselves into a co-operative association but the organisation imposed the condition that in order to enrol the weavers in a proper way they had to contribute Rs. 20 as the share capital for each member who would go into that co-operative organisation. Sir, it is hardly possible for weavers to enter into an association of that character with their own money if the share capital is so high. And what has been the result? Five big merchants two of whom are Marwaries have formed a co-operative society and they are getting 60 per cent. of the yarn allotment for weavers on the allegation that they are a co-operative society of weavers. About 18 members or so in all have formed a co-operative society there and there are two thousand weavers who are outside and they are left with ten or twelve per cent. of the total yarn, and only few of them have been organised

as a co-operative society. This is another subterfuge which should be stopped. Sir, I submit this and other evils can be eradicated only if popular support is sought. I hope Government will utilise the department not only for the very important work that is just now on hand but is ahead of us, not, merely of distribution, but also of rehabilitation work, which is very much urgent for the building up of Bengal.

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 19,11,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 and in this connection I want to raise a discussion about the general policy of the Government as to the Co-operative Department.

Sir, যে উদ্দেশ্য নিয়ে এই সমবায় বিভাগের কাজ হচ্চে, এ যাবৎকাল বাংলা দেশে সমবায় বিভাগের কাজ দেখলে স্বতঃই মনে হয় যে সে উদ্দেশ্য কিছুই সিদ্ধ হয় নাই, পৃথিবীর অন্যান্য দেশে সমবায় পদ্ধতিতে যে কাজ হচ্চে তার তুলনায় বাংলায় এই সমবায় বিভাগের কাজ সম্পূর্ণ বিফল হয়ে গিয়েছে। সমবায় বিভাগের যে প্রধান নীতি জনসাধারণের মধ্যে সমবেতভাবে কাজ করার জন্য তাদের উদ্বোধিত করা এবং জনসাধারণের মধ্যে একতার ভাব জাগরণ করিয়ে দেওয়া, সে শিক্ষা আমাদের এই বাংলা দেশে সমবায় বিভাগের দ্বারা কিছু হয়েছে বলে দেখা যায়নি। তবে এ যাবৎকাল এই যে সমবায়ের একটা বিভাগ, এই বিভাগের দ্বারা বাংলার পল্লীর দিকে দৃষ্টি করলে দেখা যায় যে কয়েকটি নামেমাত্র সমবায় সমিতি গঠিত হয়ে আছে, আর আছে বাংলার মহাজনী করার দায়িত্ব নিয়ে কতকগুলি মহাজনী সমিতি। এই যে সমবায় Co-operative Credit Society এদের কাজ সমবায়ের যে নীতি সেই নীতিকে ভুলে গেয়ে সম্পূর্ণ একটা মহাজনী করার ভার যেন তারা হাতে নিয়েছে। তাদের কার্যাকলাপ দেখলে মনে হয় যে, একমাত্র টাকা ধার দেওয়া এবং টাকা আদায় করা, এই তাদের কাজ। অথচ এই সমবায়ের নিয়ম অনুসারে যখন টাকা ধার দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছিল তখন তার উদ্দেশ্য ছিল এবং বলা হয়েছিল যে বাংলা দেশের যে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণ, বাংলা দেশের যে দীন প্রপীড়িত কৃষকশ্রেণী এদের অতিরিক্ত সুদের হাত থেকে মুক্ত করার জন্যই এই সমবায় নীতি অনুসারে টাকা দেওয়া হচ্চে। ফলে হয়েছে কি মহাজনেরা বহু সহস্র লোকের ভিটে মাটি উৎসন্ন করে তাদের রাস্তায় দাঁড় করিয়েছিল একথা সত্য, কিন্তু এই যে সমবায় বিভাগের দ্বারা ঋণদান সমিতি করে টাকা দেওয়া হয়েছে তাতে পূর্ব্ব অপেক্ষা কিছু উন্নতি হয়নি। মহাজনের বেলা দেখা যায় যে মহাজন টাকা দেয় এবং খাতক টাকা নেয়, কিন্তু খাতক অভাবগ্রস্ত হলে ঐ মহাজনের কাছে হয়ত কোন কোন সময় কিছু তার অবস্থা অনুসারে ছাড় পেয়ে টাকা শোধ করতো। আর এই ঋণদান সমিতিতে যে টাকা ধার দেওয়া হয়, এখানে দেখা যায় যে, হয়ত ২।৪ বছর টাকা দেওয়া হয়েছে, টাকা আদায় করা হয়নি। যখন ১০০৲ টাকা থেকে ৫০০৲ টাকা হোলো তখন সেই টাকা আদায় করতে যারা যায় তাদের নিজেদেরও হয়ত ক্ষমতা থাকে না যে টাকা আদায় করবার সময় খাতকের অবস্থা বুঝে কিছু ছাড় দেওয়া যায় কি না। কাজে কাজেই সেই যে খাতক এই ঋণদান সমিতি থেকে যে টাকা ধার করেছিল তার দুরবস্থা ঐ পূর্ব্বে মহাজনের করলে পড়ে যে দুরবস্থা হতো এর থেকে কিছুমাত্র উন্নতি হ'লো না। বরং কোনো কোনো ক্ষেত্রে দেখা যায় যে, মহাজনের দ্বারা একটু উপকার খাতকেরা পেত, আর এখানে দেখা যাচ্চে যে আদৌ তা তারা পায় না। ঋণদান সমিতির খাতকবৃন্দের অভাব ও অভিযোগ শুনবার বা দেখবার কেহ এখানে নাই। কর্ম্মচারিগণ হুকুম তামিল করে তাতে খাতক থাকুক আর যাউক। এই ঋণদান সমিতিগুলি যদি সেই গ্রামে গ্রামে গ্রামবাসীদের ডেকে সমবেতভাবে কার্য্য করবার শিক্ষা তাদের ভিতর ঢোকাতো, তাহলে তারা হয়ত এইভাবে একে শুধু মহাজনের দৃষ্টিতে না দেখে, সমবায়ের আসল নীতি তাদের বোধগম্য হ'তো; এবং শুধু পেটের ভাত বা খোরাক জোগাবার জন্য টাকা কর্জ না করে সেই টাকা নিয়ে তারা শিল্প, কৃষি, বাণিজ্যের উন্নতি করতো এবং তার দ্বারাতে বহু গরীব যেমন প্রতিপালিত হতো তেমনি দেশের উন্নতিও হতো যথেষ্ট কৃষি, শিল্প, বাণিজ্য প্রভৃতি সব বিষয়ে। যদিও এইসব বিষয়ে বাংলা দেশে কতকগুলি সমিতি আছে, যেমন (1) Sales Society, (2) Co-operative Fishing Society, (3) Co-operative Silk Society, (4) Bengal Milk Union, (5) Anti-Malarial Co-operative Society, (6) Bengal Home Co-operative Association, (7) Bengal Embankment Society, এইসবগুলির কার্য্যধারা দেখলে মনে হয় যে এগুলি নামে মাত্র; প্রকৃত এদের দ্বারা কোন কাজ হচ্চে না।

আজ বাংলার পল্লী-উন্নয়নের জন্য পল্লী-উন্নয়ন বিভাগ খোলা হয়েছে এবং তাতে বেশীর ভাগ কাজ করানো হচ্চে বাংলা দেশের যে পাট বিভাগ, সেই পাট বিভাগের কর্ম্মচারীদের দ্বারা। আমি বুঝতে পারি না যে পাট বিভাগের সঙ্গে পল্লী-উন্নয়নের কি সম্বন্ধ আছে। অথচ এই যে সমবায় বিভাগ, যে সমবায় পদ্ধতির দ্বারা পৃথিবীর

বহু দেশে শিল্প, কৃষি, বাণিজ্যের উন্নতি হয়েছে, বহু দেশ তাদের আর্থিক উন্নতিবিধান করেছে, সেই একটা বিভাগ এখানে থাকতে, সেই বিভাগে আরো বহু সংখ্যক লোক যদি দরকার হোতো তাহলে সেই লোক এই সমবায় বিভাগের মধ্যে নিযুক্ত করে কেন এই বাংলার, এই দুঃস্থ পল্লীর উন্নতিবিধান করা না হোলো। অথচ করা হচ্চে কি, না Jute Departmentএর কতকগুলি লোককে এখানে নিযুক্ত করা হয়েছে। Juteএর সঙ্গেই কি কেবল বাংলার পল্লী-উন্নয়নের সম্বন্ধ? তা ত মনে হয় না। পল্লী-উন্নয়ন করতে হলে পল্লীবাসীদিগকে, বাংলার এই ৯০ হাজার গ্রামকে, প্রতি পল্লীকে সমবায় মন্ত্রে দীক্ষিত করতে হবে। যতদিন পর্য্যন্ত বাংলার জনসাধারণ সমবেতভাবে তাদের গ্রামের উন্নতি না করতে পারবে, যতদিন পর্য্যন্ত বাংলার জনসাধারণ সমবেতভাবে তাদের কৃষির উন্নতি না করতে পারবে, যতদিন পর্য্যন্ত সমবেতভাবে তারা তাদের শিল্প বাণিজ্যের উন্নতি করতে না পারবে ততদিন পর্য্যন্ত কয়েকটা Jute Departmentএর মাইনে করা লোক এক এক জায়গায় বসিয়ে তাদের কেবল মাইনে দিলে আর তাদের ঘুষ খাওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করে দিলেই বাংলার উন্নতি হবে না। বাংলার উন্নতি করতে গেলে চাই এই সমবায় বিভাগের প্রকৃত উন্নতি, চাই এই সমবায় বিভাগের প্রকৃত উদ্দেশ্য বজায় রেখে কাজ করা। আমরা চাই বাংলার সমবায়, আমরা চাই বাংলার জনসাধারণের মধ্যে এই সমবায় ভাব। আজ সেই জন্যই আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে বলবো,--

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. PATIRAM RAY: যদি বাংলার উন্নতি করতে হয় তাহলে এই বিভাগকে যেন প্রকৃত—

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনি কি সময় চান?

Mr. PATIRAM RAY: আজ্ঞে হাঁ, পাঁচ মিনিট।

Mr. SPEAKER: পাঁচ মিনিট নয়, two minutes

Mr. PATIRAM RAY: বাংলার এই সমবায় বিভাগকে যদি প্রকৃত সমবায় নীতি অনুসারে কাজ করানো যায় তাহলে এই দুঃস্থ বাংলার প্রকৃত উন্নতি হবে। তাছাড়া আমরা যতই কিছু করি না কেন, যতক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত বাঙ্গালীর ভিতর সমবায় ভাব না জাগবে ততক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত কোন রকম উন্নতি করার সম্ভাবনা আসবে না। এই সমবায় বিভাগ যদি প্রকৃত উদ্দেশ্য লইয়া কার্য্যক্ষেত্রে অবতীর্ণ হতে পারে, যদি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় সমবায় বিভাগকে প্রকৃত কার্য্যকরী করিয়া বাংলার ঘরে ঘরে বাংলার জনসাধারণকে, বাংলার আবাল-বৃদ্ধ-বনিতাকে সমবায় মন্ত্রে উদ্বুদ্ধ করতে পারেন, বাঙ্গালী যদি বোঝে যে আমরা বাঙ্গালী, বাংলার সন্তান, আমরা সকলেই সমবেতভাবে এই বাংলার উন্নতিসাধন করবো, যদি মন্ত্রী মহাশয় তাঁহার বিভাগের দ্বারা বাংলার ঘরে ঘরে এই কথা প্রচার করতে পারেন যে "সকলের তরে সকলে আমরা, প্রত্যেকে আমরা পরের তরে", তাহলে সেদিন হবে বাংলার প্রকৃত উন্নতি, সেদিন হবে বাংলার প্রকৃত মঙ্গল। তা ছাড়া কেবল বিভাগ সৃষ্টির দ্বারা কাগজ, কলম, আফিস দুরস্ত করিলে দৈনিক পত্রিকায় বিবরণী দিলে, সাম্প্রদায়িক দলগঠন করিলে বাংলার উন্নতি হবে না। বাংলার উন্নতি নির্ভর করে এই সমবায় পদ্ধতির উপর তাই আমি এই কথা বলে, সময় আমার নেই আজি তাই আমি আসন গ্রহণ করছি।

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after many years of consideration of one another and Government, we are all well aware of weaknesses in this Department. Indeed, they are obvious, but it is very easy to suggest convincing cures. I am aware of many serious proposals that have been worked up for months and put up to Government in the last six or seven years, but, so far as I know, they have had no effect and most of them have produced no answer. The reasons for the difficulties I shall mention in a moment.

One thing missing in this Department is co-operation. I do not say that with levity. The consciousness of co-operation is found only in a few special institutions here and there. The Department was not established to institute or encourage co-operation. It did not grow out of the felt needs of the people. It was imposed upon the people by the Government of India by an act of will after many committees and conferences and discussions in public. It was intended in the main to provide agricultural credit for the peasant—a very valuable and necessary operation—but by itself it does not make co-operation and today what sense of community can there be between the Directors of the Provincial Bank who lend their money out to Central

Banks and the peasant—rice-growing, paddy-growing, fish-catching—who ultimately gets that money. We consider lenders are banks of society and the borrower—and the borrower like most of us—feels a natural reluctance to pay back his debts ("Hear" "hear" from European benches). I notice I have the whole-hearted support of my own party in this. (Laughter.) If the debtor——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Wordsworth, your speech, though much appreciated, is not quite audible from this side. Will you kindly go to the microphone?

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: I was saying, Sir, that if the debtor were properly imbued with the spirit of co-operation, he would on the morning that his debt was due get up, rush up and give his debt back to his creditor and there would be rejoicing on both sides. What has happened in our province—in India generally—is a different kind of rush—a rush to establish a Co-operative Department and, once it was started, the rush has continued to get as many societies into this province as possible because they look well in the statistics. In more early days the meaning of co-operation was confined to the ways in which the feeling of co-operation would spread. There was no part taken to work out methods by which everybody inside the co-operative movement would feel associated in a common interest and in a common purpose with every one else. There was no time to teach and learn co-operative principles and so, it failed. What every Government has since inherited and tried to make the best use of is assistance, not assistance in an organic system but really in an inorganic structure—and an inorganic structure has no vital power in itself. We thought it could mend its own defects and so we suffered from what was done forty years ago when India borrowed from other countries certain features of their co-operative systems but omitted to borrow many other features that were more important. We have comparative studies in India. Some provinces have done better than ours. The Punjab has had the wisdom and inspiration of a Darling. We have not had such gigantic figures at any time in working our Co-operative Department.

The matter is now being considered afresh. There are Reconstruction Committees and Sub-committees at work, and I can say of my own knowledge that they are working very hard. But I do not know whether it is possible all at once to make good the defects that were imposed upon this province some 40 years ago. In the operation of this Department we suffered a great deal of loss and the Reconstruction Sub-Committees by their direction and advice are trying to make good the loss. On the other hand there is a great deal of money now available to help the peasant—I speak from my knowledge of the work—but no more can be used because the use that can be made of the capital of co-operative banks is very limited and restricted by law. Those who come from the mufassal will probably know better than I do why the peasant of this moment seems to require capital less than he did 3 or 4 years ago. I am not competent to give any opinion. I can only say that I know of capital waiting for use that is not being used. At the present moment we are studying the wonderful success of agricultural banks of Egypt. It may be that in the operation of those banks we shall find a way out of our varied and peculiar difficulties. They are great and I do not think it is generous or just of us to blame the Department at a particular moment or Government at any particular moment for what is wrong. What is wrong has been handed down and it has become firmly fixed by the operations of generations. But it may be—we are not considering this in Bengal—it may be that a way out of our difficulties, so far as agricultural credit is concerned, lies in some way of aligning the Agriculture Department and the Co-operative Department in some system of agricultural banks.

Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise with some amount of despondency to take part in this debate. On this occasion

at least I am at one with my friend Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal who has put forward a constructive suggestion as to how the co-operative department of the Government of Bengal should function in the province at the present moment. Those of us who have had occasion to read the history of this movement all over the world must have found that it is only when the people are in distress that the co-operative movement came to their help and rescue and not when they were in affluence.

Now, Sir, we know from our limited experience of the affairs of this province that in about 1938 when there was a great flood overtaking 16 districts of the province the Co-operative Department of the Government of Bengal was thought of as the only agency which could help our people of those districts and help them out of their difficulties.

Now, Sir, on an investigation into the activities of the department which were growing it was felt sometime back that the Act of 1912 was not sufficient. The growing needs of the movement required not only more powers but also more responsibilities. Taking that factor into consideration, this House was good enough to pass a comprehensive Act in 1940. Eulogies were offered so far as the success of that Act was concerned—at least on that occasion. Facilities were offered and I am not quite sure if the Ministry of the day have had time enough to peruse the 140 sections of this Act and find out what facilities they have got, what powers have been given to Government and their corresponding responsibilities. Following the provisions of the Act rules were framed and I am not quite sure again as to whether time has been found by the Hon'ble Minister of the Department to peruse those few rules by now.

Sir, to foster co-operative movement in any province it requires sympathy and guidance on the part of one and honesty and good will on the part of the other. In order to have guidance it was felt by Government a few years ago as also by this House that the department was understaffed and that the money provided was inadequate. When the facts were placed before the House, the House was good enough to agree to properly staff the department by giving them 16 Assistant Registrars in place of five, and 16 Divisional Auditors in place of five, but we find today that many of the ranges are without any officer. Again the Head of the Department has been working on an acting capacity for some years now and he does not know where he stands. I do not understand how an officer can at all function or can work conscientiously or with justification or with any amount of energy if he is put on the fence of that character when he is working on an acting basis year after year. If he has done well and has proved a success he must get proper facilities. If he has proved himself otherwise, he should be said good-bye as soon as possible. This is the situation today. There is no guidance much less any sympathy from the top, and so far as the other questions are concerned I am not quite sure if there is that spirit of honesty and good will which ought to be felt by those who are called upon to work amongst themselves for bettering their own conditions. My esteemed Professor, the Chairman of the Provincial Bank, has told us today as to what the Co-operative Department has been doing for some years now

One thing, Sir, which was very sorely felt by this House as also by our friends outside is what would happen to the large number of societies which had been groaning under heavy burdens. A committee went into this question and it transpired that so far as the debts of the village credit societies numbering 30,000 and more are concerned, they amounted to Rs. 6,10 lakhs of which Rs. 2,50 lakhs went to their capital and Rs. 3,60 lakhs formed their interest. Even an expert financier and Finance Minister like my old colleague Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker had to agree that the scheme that was formulated by the Department of the day and the advice given by the Co-operative expert of the province including the Provincial Bank and its Chairman was the best plan which could be thought of. We do not know what has happened to the scheme; nor do we know what action has been taken on that scheme. We find in the budget today—my honourable

friend, Dr. Sanyal, did not appreciate the details when he quoted figures—that the amount has not increased from Rs. 16 to Rs. 19 lakhs but it has practically gone down. For we find that the increase is only due to the payment of dearness allowance and other charges which of course did not find mention in the Red Book. We find that the Department has again gone down and has been considerably undertaffed. If the Department were to function properly all these difficulties which have now happened, should be overcome as quickly as possible and the powers given to the Government in the Act of 1940 should be availed of at an early date. If the Hon'ble Minister has not the time to go into it I am sure his Parliamentary Secretary, Khan Bahadur Abdur Rahman who was a member of the Select Committee, would have time to go into it and he would probably be able to advise the Department. I do not have time to go into the details but as I have said there is some amount of despondency felt by every one. I hope my remarks will be appreciated in the spirit in which they have been offered.

I am sorry that my esteemed Professor, Mr. Wordsworth, had to mention that we have not got a Darling on co-operation in this Province, but he should have remembered that Sir Malcolm Darling did go into this question. His report was there. The Government of the day did not find it very much encouraging to them and did not feel inclined to publish the report. The report is available to those who are called upon to administer the Department. After that a Special Officer was appointed at the instance of no less a person than His Excellency Sir John Anderson to examine and report on this condition of the central co-operative banks. This question was thoroughly gone into, viz., the condition of Central Banks in the province numbering about 120, was examined and he gave a very detailed report. I am not sure if the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department has had time to read that report.

I feel sincerely that if the Department had taken up its proper position which it occupies, perhaps a good deal of the activities which are now taken by the Civil Supplies Department would not have been necessary and we would have been able to save ourselves from all sorts of ugly allegations that have been levelled against the Civil Supplies Department.

Maulvi MUHAMMED ISRAIL: I have given notice of a cut motion but I do not propose to move it The motion itself reads thus: "To raise a discussion about the old debts of the Co-operative Department and their settlement by the Co-operative Special Boards".

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot move your motion.

Maulvi MUHAMMED ISRAIL: I have not moved it. So far as the debts of the Co-operative departments are concerned they were not included in the Money-lenders Act on the understanding that the interest paid by the Co-operative debtors was not very high. But the House knows that the members of primary societies have to pay interests at Rs. 15-10-0 per cent. per annum. That interest is not low. The Moneylenders' Act was brought into operation to give relief to the debtors and the Debt Settlement Boards were set up to give relief to the debtors. Now the Debt Settlement Boards were trying to cut down the debts according to the paying capacity of debtors. But unfortunately Government have not done much for the co-operative debtors. Government by an order set up Special Debt Settlement Boards in each subdivisional headquarters for co-operative debts. The Chairman of the Board is the Co-operative Inspector, two members of the Board are members of primary societies and two are members of the Central Banks. The Department has said that not more than 5 instalments should be granted so far as Co-operative Debt is concerned. Not only that the interest should run on easy instalments at 6¼ per cent. per annum. This has led to the difficulty that all co-operative debtors have to go to the subdivisional headquarters for the reduction of their debts. This has led to

congestion there. Further, these people have to go and spend a lot of money at the subdivisional headquarters on food and other purposes. Not only that, due to congestion, they have to pay some fees to clerks and others. They do not get any relief whatsoever from these boards. Even if there be any settlement it is not according to the paying capacity of the debtors. There is a scheme as has been suggested by Mr. Mullick for the payment of old debts and it was to be paid by raising debentures. He has just now said that the entire debt of the primary societies amounted to Rs. 310 lakhs and it was understood that the Provincial Bank was ready to forego the interest provided at least 60 per cent. was paid in cash and 40 per cent. in debentures. That was examined and as he has just now pointed out it was supported by a great financier like Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker. Government has not given effect to that. Government tried by the Subdivisional Officers who happened to be the Chairmen of Central Banks, by utilising their services to realise the debts of so-called debtors. Not only that there is provision in the Act itself that as soon as a co-operative debtor is in arrears there is a procedure for submission of the dispute. The dispute should be submitted and award given by the Inspector. As soon as there is an award the amount can be realised by a certificate procedure. The certificate procedure has been tried and the Act of 1940 has been passed to give more power for the realisation of those debts. All these have been utilised. In spite of that, the debts remain there. It clearly shows that the co-operative debtors have not yet been able to pay their debts and are unable to pay their debts. Therefore I urge upon the Government to see that so far as the old debts are concerned at least the interest must be wiped out and the principal allowed to be paid in easy instalments. Unless that is done there is no relief to the co-operative debtors. My another suggestion will be that these Co-operative Special Debt Settlement Boards should be abolished and these cases should be allowed to come before the ordinary boards so that no distinction can be made between co-operative debts and other debts

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Maulvi MUHAMMED ISRAIL: I want 3 minutes more, Sir. That is all about co-operative old debts. Now Government have started Land Mortgage Banks. There is one Land Mortgage Bank in Mymensingh. But Government have advanced forty thousand rupees to these banks for a population of sixty lakhs. If we take five persons as the unit of a family, it comes to twelve lakhs of families and Rs. 40,000 to finance twelve lakhs of families is nothing. So Government should not be allowed to keep the banks in that position. They must finance the land mortgage banks properly if they really want to help the rural people. Then, Sir, the land mortgage banks have provided that two sureties are to be secured and this is impossible where land has to be mortgaged as well.

Sir, I now come to the creation of multi-purposes societies. In my own subdivision of Kishoreganj I know how the co-operative multi-purposes societies have been formed and how they are working. The entire distribution of cloth, kerosene and other things which are under Government control is done by these multi-purposes societies. These societies take out all the ration articles from the Subdivisional Officer for the members of the multi-purposes society and then they distribute the articles to the ration card-holders. This has led to the shortage of black-marketing. But now these are the societies of the people and so even if the margin of profit is small, they get things at cheap rates. The House will be glad to know that the share money of the multi-purposes society of Kishoreganj is now Rs. 2,65,000 or more. (At this stage the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Sir, I will speak generally on the subject of co-operation so far as the scheme for the development of handloom industry is concerned. It has been stated in the Red book, on page 71, that a

scheme for the development of handloom industry has been made. I want to know in detail what that scheme is. Now, Sir, with regard to the handloom industry I should say that it does not require any mentioning that the condition of the weavers in Bengal is precarious. They are now practically starving. They cannot carry on their business which they have so long been carrying on for want of yarn and for want of proper support from the Government. As a result of that they are now starving. In these circumstances, as we have just now heard it should be the duty of the Government to help the weavers so that they can get enough yarns for the production of cloth, especially in these days when there is a shortage of cloth and when by production of more cloth they can relieve at least to some extent the sufferings that we are now undergoing for want of cloth. In connection with distribution of yarn I would draw the attention of the Government to one Rai Bahadur R. P. Saha who has been appointed as the agent of Government to distribute yarn to the Subdivisional Officers and the Subdivisional Officers will in their turn distribute the yarn to local dealers and the local dealers will distribute to actual consumers. Now, Sir, one very aggravating and most deplorable practice that has been followed by the Government is this that this Rai Bahadur R. P. Saha is given a percentage as his profit and I do not know why he has been appointed at all on behalf of the Government for distribution of yarn.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Is that Rai Bahadur R. P. Saha an employer of Dr. Sanyal?

Babu RADHANATH DAS: I do not know.

From the mills yarn go to the wholesalers and the wholesalers trade on them. They sell them to Rai Bahadur R. P. Saha at 10½ per cent. profit, who, in his turn, is making a profit of 3½ per cent. and sending those yarns to the Subdivisional Officers who again are distributing them to the local agents. One thing, Sir, to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is, that the Government is uselessly giving 3½ per cent. profit to Rai Bahadur R. P. Saha, which they can easily do without. The Government has directed that, as regards the appointment of local agents, in each case of one appointment of a Hindu agent there should be a Muhammadan agent irrespective of the fact whether the latter is prepared to carry on the trade creditably. But as there is smaller number of Muhammadan agents available throughout Bengal who have got trading licence in yarn and cloth and as the Government is in difficulty to find out the requisite number of Muhammadan agents, the thing is that those yarns are lying frozen and as a result of that no weaver is getting any yarn and as a consequence there is scarcity of cloth that people are feeling everywhere. Sir, my friend Mr. Dhirendra Narayan Mukherjea, says that in the godown at Serampore Court a very large quantity of yarn is lying there for fourteen days for want of proper agents for distribution and that is for want of requisite Muhammadan agents. These are the charges I am bringing against the Government. Once more I appeal through you to the Government that they should clearly describe and point out what is the scheme that they are now executing or intend to carry out for the purpose of developing the handloom industry. I appeal to Government through you, Sir, that they should state clearly what they have in mind, particularly with regard to the development of handloom industry.

Khan Sahib Maulvi MD. HASANUZZAMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলার জনসাধারণ যখন প্রশভাবে জর্জরিত হয়ে পড়েছিল, সেই জনসাধারণ বলতে অধিকাংশ মুসলমানকে বোঝা যায়, তাদের সত্য যায় দিয়ে বাংলার সত্য তালিকাভুক্ত করে তাদের বাঁচাবার চেষ্টা করবার জন্য আমাদের এই সমবায় আন্দোলনের সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। বাস্তবিক পক্ষে তাদের বাঁচাবার যে পদ্ধতি, যে নিয়ম-কানুন, তা Co-operative movementএ ছিল কি না জানি না। কিন্তু আমাদের দুর্ভাগ্যবশতঃ তা যখন অবান্তরের মাঝখানে এসে অচল হয়ে পড়েছিল, তখন তাকে সচল করবার জন্য আমাদের ভূতপূর্ব মন্ত্রী Hon'ble Mr. Mullick উনি যখন Minister ছিলেন, তিনি এই Co-operative Department administer করেন। Co-operative আইন সংশোধন হওয়ার পর হইতে বাংলার

সমবায় আন্দোলন যেভাবে অচল অবস্থার দিকে চলেছিল, এখন অনেকটা সচল অবস্থার দিকে এসেছে। মাঝখান দিয়ে বার বার Co-operative Departmentএর উপরিস্থ অফিসার পরিবর্তন হইয়া বাস্তবিক পক্ষে আদায় উসুল এবং অন্যান্য কাজকর্ম শিথিল হয়ে পড়েছিল। কিন্তু বর্তমান সময়ে আমাদের যিনি জনপ্রিয় Registrar সাহেব আছেন, তাঁর সমস্ত অফিসময় জয় জয়, এমনভাবে তিনি Co-operative চালিয়েছেন। তিনি যেভাবে বাংলার উত্তর থেকে দক্ষিণ ও দক্ষিণ থেকে পূর্ব্ব চতুর্দ্দিকে বাংলায় ঘুরে ঘুরে জায়গায় জায়গায় গিয়ে সমবায়ের সমস্ত লোকদিগকে ডেকে ডেকে নানাভাবে উৎসাহ বর্দ্ধন করছেন এবং আমি খবর নিয়ে দেখেছি এবং জেনেছি, আমার নিজেরও দু' একটা ঘটনার অভিজ্ঞতা আছে বলে জানি যে যে অবস্থা অচল হয়ে পড়েছিল এখন সেই অচল অবস্থা অনেকটা দূর হয়ে গিয়েছে। এইভাবে প্রত্যেক আন্দোলন বা movementএর মধ্যে যারা officer থাকে, আর যারা officer নয় তারা যদি বসে বসে office চালাব এইভাবে চিন্তা না করে, গ্রামে গ্রামে ঘুরে ও পল্লীতে পল্লীতে গিয়ে বেড়িয়ে জনসাধারণের ব্যথা কোথায় এই সমস্ত খবর নিয়ে তাদের ব্যাথার আমুল পরিবর্তনের চেষ্টা করেন, তাদের বাঁচাবার জন্য যদি বাস্তবিক উপায় চিন্তা করেন তাহ'লে সেই আন্দোলন সফল হতে পারে, তাহলে তারাও জয়যুক্ত হতে পারেন। আমাদের যে বর্তমান Registrar সাহেব আছেন ওঁনার কার্য্যপদ্ধতির কথা আগেই বলেছি। কিন্তু বর্তমান Registrarএর আগে যিনি Registrar ছিলেন তাঁর খবরাখবর নিয়ে আপনারা দেখতে পারেন কোন সময় কিভাবে কেমন অবস্থা হয়েছে। কিন্তু অত্যন্ত দুঃখের বিষয় এই যে একটা জিনিষ আমি বলব (A voice: বলুন, বলুন) কিন্তু বলবার ভাষা চাই। কিন্তু বর্তমানে Co-operative movementএ অতি ভাল কাজ আমাদের হতে পারে। যাঁরা Departmentএ আছেন তাঁদের কাছ থেকে বোঝা যায় যে যা officer দরকার, যত লোক দরকার, যত assistant দরকার সেই পরিমাণ লোক Departmentএ দেওয়া হয় নাই। কোন কোন Department আছে যেখানে কেবল একটার উপর একটা দুই নম্বর, তিন নম্বর, চার নম্বর circularএর চোটে বাংলা দেশ ছেয়ে গিয়েছে, কিন্তু কাজের বেলায় কিছু নয়। আমরা জানি যে কতকগুলি বড় বড় Department হয়েছে, public serviceএর, বাংলা Governmentএর Development যে Department হয়েছে এসব bogus Department আমি Governmentকে অনুরোধ করি যে এই রকম যে সব department আছে সেটা উঠিয়ে Co-operative Departmentএর সঙ্গে যেন join করে দেন--তাহলে বাংলার অনেক দিকে উন্নতি সাধিত হবে।

আমার পূর্ব্ববর্তী বক্তা বলেছেন যে Civil Supply Departmentএ অনেক সুবিধা দেওয়া হয়েছে। কিন্তু হাসান সাহেবের circularএ আছে যে এই Co-operative movementকে first preference দেওয়া হবে।

আর একটা বিষয়ে আমি Ministerএর attention draw করছি। Provincial Governmentএর নাকি একটা decision হয়েছিল যে হতভাগা Chittagong Divisionকে সমস্ত টাকা পরিশোধ করবার পর নূতন করে আর কোন loan দেওয়া হবে না। আমি last budget sessionএ তা উত্থাপন করেছিলাম, Minister সেই সময় আমাকে আশ্বাস দিয়েছিলেন যে সেটা revise করা হবে। আমি আবার জানতে চাই চাটগাঁ Divisionকে ঐ টাকা দেওয়া হবে কি না--সে জিনিষ revise হ'ল কি না এবং সেটা শোধ করে এখন সকলকে সুবিধা দেওয়া হয়েছে কি না? এটা আমি Minister সাহেবের কাছে জানতে চাই—

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: আপনার শুধু বক্তৃতা নয় আপনার কাজও হবে।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনার time হয়ে গেছে।

Maulvi IDRIS AHMED MIA: আমি cut motion সম্বন্ধে দুটো-একটা কথা বলতে চাই; বলবার অনেক কথাই আছে। একটা কথা বলতে হলে বলতে হচ্ছে এই যে যখন আমরা Co-operative Act পরিবর্তন করি তখন বলেছিলাম যে চোরের দলকে শুধু জেলে ভরে ডাকাতের দলকে বাইরে রাখলে দেশের কোন কাজ হবে না। তখন আমাদের মাননীয় মুকুন্দবিহারী মল্লিক মহাশয় বলেছিলেন যে না ডাকাতের দলই হউক যাই হউক এরা Governmentএর নিজেদের লোক, ধরা-বাঁধা লোক, যখন যা ইচ্ছা তাই করতে পারবো, যখন ইচ্ছা কাণ মলতে পারবো। অতএব কোন চিন্তা নাই। তা সত্ত্বেও আমি ভাল করে জানি, আমি কিছুতেই agree করি নাই। সেখানে যে আমরা সুদ Co-operativeএ নেবো, এটা তখন আমরা সমর্থন করতে পারলাম না। এর ফল হয়েছে যে এই গ্রামে যে সমস্ত Co-operative সমিতিগুলি আছে, এদের একেবারে চৌদ্দ পুরুষ ধরে কোন রকমেই ঋণ শোধ হতে পারছে না। একটা লোক যদি সেই Co-operativeএর Inspectorকে মুসলমান

হলে তাকে মোরগ, আর হিন্দু ভদ্রলোক হলে হাঁসের মাংস ইত্যাদি আর একটু বিষ্টিটিষ্টি দিতে পারলো তাহলে তার বাড়ীতে কোন টাকাকড়ি দিতে হয় না। তিনি ওদের রাম, শ্যাম, যদু, আবদুল, করীম তাদের বাড়ী থেকে টাকা নিয়ে চলে যান।

এইটা দেখা যাচ্ছে যে একটা লোক হয়ত ৫৲ টাকা মাত্র নিয়েছে কিন্তু তার ১২৫৲ টাকা দিয়েও শোধ হলো না; আর যে লোকটা ৫০৲ টাকা নিয়েছে সে ৫৲ টাকাও দেয়নি অথচ সে খালাস। যে ৫৲ টাকার জন্য ১২৫৲ টাকা দিয়াছে তার বাড়ীতে যাওয়ার কারণ যে peonকে সঙ্গে করে নিয়ে যায় তিনি জানেন যে মোরগ চৌরগ খাবার ব্যবস্থা হয় একটু সেখানে। এ সমস্ত চোর ডাকাতের দল। ডাকাতের দলকে বাইরে রেখে ভিতরে চোরকে বন্ধ করলে কিছু হবে না। আমাদের বাস্তবিক দেশের যদি কিছু করতে হয় তাহলে এই Co-operativeএর আইনটা বদলাতে হবে এবং Money-lenders' Act যেভাবে দরকার হয়, বা যে আইনের যেভাবে দরকার হয় তার পরিবর্তন করতে হবে। না হলে যতই চেষ্টা করুন আমাদের Co-operativeএর সমিতিগুলি গ্রামে গড়ে উঠবে না। কারণ সকলের মনে এক আতঙ্ক আছে যে একবার বিশ-পঁচিশ টাকা নিলে, চির জীবনে শোধ হবে না, একেবারে মরণের পরেও ওর বংশধরেরা সে দেনা শোধ করতে পারবে না। এখন আর একটা বন্দোবস্ত হয়েছে, Government এক Debt Settlement Board গড়ে দিয়েছেন। তারা সমস্ত বসে গেলেন ভাগ করবার জন্য--যেন বাঘ, সিংহ, শেয়াল তিন জনে বসলেন ভাগা নিয়ন্ত্রণ করতে, ছাগল, ভেড়া মোরগের তিন জনের ওঁরা বেশ settlement করে দিলেন, যে আজকে ভেড়াকে খাওয়া যাক একদিন ছাগলকে খাওয়া যায়, মোরগকে খাওয়া যায় অন্যদিন (laughter)। এই ব্যবস্থা বাংলা দেশে চলেছে অথচ আমাদের চক্ষে থেকে লজ্জা-সরম যেন একেবারে হারিয়ে গিয়েছে। কোন জায়গায়ই আমাদের আটকায় না। আমরা ত মুসলমান, আমাদের প্রত্যেক কাজের জবাবদিহি দিতে হবে খোদার কাছে। কিন্তু খোদার কাছে দূরের কথা মানুষের কাছেও যে একটা জবাবদিহি করতে হবে, এরও লজ্জা-সরম আমাদের নেই। আমি আরো একটা কথা বলতে চাই--সমিতিগুলির প্রতি গভর্ণমেণ্টের উদাসীনতা সম্বন্ধে। বক্তৃতা যথেষ্ট হয় কিন্তু কাজ কোথায়? এই একটা জিনিষ শুধু দেখুন, ৮।১০ দিনের কথা। আমি আমার মালদহ জেলায় অনেক চেষ্টা করে Kalachar Weavers Co-operative Society করেছি, তাতে কিছু সামান্য grant Government of India দিয়েছেন। কিন্তু টাকা দিয়াও সূতা পাওয়া যায় না। বড় লোক যাদের গভর্ণমেণ্ট agent করা হয়েছে তারাও সমিতিকে সূতা দেয় না। এমন কি Malda Government Weaving School এর কাজ-কাম সূতার অভাবে প্রায় বন্ধ। এসব কথা আমার নিজের জানা যেহেতু আমি ঐ স্কুলের মেম্বর District Boardএর Vice-Chairman হিসাবে। তার supervisor এসেছিলেন টাকা নিয়ে সূতা কিনতে। আমি নিজে আমাদের Minister সাহেবকে বলেছি। অথচ আজও পর্য্যন্ত সূতার ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই। গভর্ণমেণ্টের সাহায্যপ্রাপ্ত কালিয়াচক সমিতিকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আজ পর্য্যন্ত সূতা দিতে পারেন নাই যদিও Registrar of Co-operative Societies ও মন্ত্রীমহোদয়কে জানান হয়। অথচ কাপড়ের অভাবে দেশের লোক এক রকম উলঙ্গ হয়ে গেল। এখন পর্য্যন্ত আমাদের দেশের লোক বলেছে যে বড় লোকদের ধুতি-কাপড়, আচকান, পায়জামা ধরে না টানলে আর উপায় নাই। আমাদের District Boardএর Chairman সাহেব জিজ্ঞাসা করেছিলেন যে "উলঙ্গ করবে নাকি"? বোধ হয় তাঁকে তা ও করতে পারে। এই রকম অবস্থা। এখন আমার শুধু কথা হোলো যে আইনের ভাঁওতাতে ভুলিয়ে দেশের লোককে পীড়ন করতে চান না বাঁচাতে চান?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to say a few words in sppport of the motion of my honourable friend Mrs. Hemaprova Majumdar with regard to organisation of handloom industry on a co-operative basis. I remember in my college days I read a book by a distinguished English writer in which the author began the preface with the following words: "Dear reader, let me tell you what my book is not." Similarly let me begin by saying, what co-operation in Bengal is not. In this province co-operation is not real. It is not serious of its purpose. The Ministry and the Department of Co-operation are absolutely devoid of imagination and ideas. They are toying with co-operation. As an illustration we may take the case of the deplorable condition of the handloom, industry in the province. The cloth famine that has overtaken the province and has almost reduced it to nakedness has forced the attention of the people to this industry.

Sir, those who know anything about handloom industry would tell you that the possibilities of this industry are vast if the problem can be tackled

with imagination and foresight. Unfortunately, the Government have done nothing of the kind. If the more than two lakhs of handlooms in the province could be properly organised people could have got at least some relief in the matter of cloth today. The problem is not so very difficult, because the looms that are spread over the province are spread in compact areas. In my own subdivision of Narayanganj for example there are a little less than 40,000 handlooms all lying idle today. What is the problem in regard to these handlooms? How to organise them? I shall not lead the House into technicalities. There are three aspects of the question. One is of supply and procurement of materials including yarn and also other materials; the second is of manufacture and the third of marketing. I beg to submit that in all these three aspects co-operation can work wonders if tackled in a proper way. My honourable friend Mr. Radhanath Das has mentioned the question of yarn supply. He has said that things have been left in the hands of a man whose *bonafides* is not above board. I personally know about Rai Bahadur Ranada Prosad Saha. He has one great qualification. He knows how to grease proper hands. He knows how to divide the spoils with his boss or bosses in the Ministry. I make this statement without fear of challenge. If anybody in the House has the courage to challenge me, I am prepared to show materials of unimpeachable character which will go to show that this man is doing things in a way which is unworthy of an honest man of business. Distribution of yarn must be made in an honest way by co-operative method. If Government mean business they can also manufacture yarn by establishing small spinning mills in compact areas on co-operative basis. They can also start small preparatory and finishing mills. Those who are in the textile industry know that if arrangement is made for supplying sized beams, to the handloom weavers the process of manufacture is greatly facilitated.

Last but not the least, the question of marketing, is a great problem. The poor people work day and night, but they do not get proper facilities for marketing. I know that in Dacca these people work hard and they produce very nice stuff. But the vultures from outside, the resourceful middle men, go there and take away the goods at a nominal price. Perhaps the children of the weavers are suffering from malaria, perhaps they are going without food. In these circumstances the weavers cannot hold their goods for the best market. They sell the goods, they sell themselves to these middle men. It is for the Co-operative Department to save these poor handloom weavers from the clutches of the middle men. That can be done by co-operation. Unfortunately, the Government have done nothing of the kind in this matter.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Sir, my reading of the operative portion of the Co-operative budget is (In Persian)—

ای دوست اگر جان طلبی جان بتو بخشم
و لیکن اگر ز طلبی سخن درینست

("Oh! friend, if you demand my life I shall give you my soul also, but if you demand money that is a riddle. I shall not be able to give you anything.")

The Hon'ble Mr. Mandal has approached the Hon'ble Finance Minister with a beggar's bowl but he has not got anything. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has said: "improvement of co-operation is not possible and we are very sorry, you shall not be able to spend". I hope, Sir, that today there will be a resolve that some more money is provided for co-operation and co-operation may thrive and prosper in Bengal.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel encouraged to listen to the speeches of honourable members belonging

to different parties of this House today only for the reason that their speeches are full of constructive suggestions.

Now, Sir, I am particularly thankful to Mr. Wordsworth, a veteran co-operator of this province, who has very rightly stated that non-payment mentality of the debtors of this province is no less responsible for the partial failure of the Co-operative movement in this province.

Further he added that when there was an expansion of the Co-operative Societies a large number of Co-operative Credit Societies were formed without giving due consideration to the paying capacity of the members who were forming into co-operative societies. Many things, many errors were committed in the past for which the Co-operative movement to-day is suffering and has a setback.

Now, Sir, of all the speeches delivered on the floor of this House by Dr. Sanyal, today's speech has attracted my greatest attention and appreciation because his speech today is full of constructive suggestions. But so far as his charges of mal-administration in this Department are concerned he has failed to substantiate them Sir, in the selection of officers, efficiency and merit are always taken into consideration and Dr. Sanyal has not been able to cite a single instance of corruption and bribery in which officials or non-officials were involved. This complaint of corruption and bribery have been repeatedly made against this Department but during the last 2 years I have been in office I have not been able to find out how an officer of this Department can take bribe and no such instance has yet been brought to my notice. If any honourable member can bring some instance of this nature to my notice I shall surely take drastic action against the officer concerned. Then, Sir, Dr Nalinaksha Sanyal in his speech has suggested that distribution and procurement could be efficiently done through co-operative societies and co-operative organisations. As Minister of the Co-operative Department I should say that it was also my suggestion but the honourable member should realise that the policy adopted and accepted by the Government has got to be followed by the Co-operative Department and unless Government as a whole decided to follow a particular policy the Co-operative Department cannot alone enforce it. Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick must realise that the Co-operative Department is not a self-sufficient department. For every thing that has to be done by this Department, it has got to depend on other Departments of Government. Therefore the achievements which may be made by this Department are dependant on the co-operation and assistance of other departments Government was not unmindful to this question and they gave due consideration to it and came to the decision that distribution should be made through union and thana food committees. Of course I really feel encouraged to find here that the representatives of Bengal are appreciating gradually the usefulness and effectiveness of this Co-operative Department and co-operative movement. I am waiting for the day when along with the representatives of the people the people at large will also combine and co-operate with me. You know, Sir, about some of the failures of this Department in the past which are still in the memory of the people, and it is not very easy to bring all the people under the fold of co-operation. In his speech Mr. Wordsworth has rightly said that no co-operative education was imparted to the people and they therefore could not know what co-operation was and up till now a large section of the people of this Province do not quite appreciate what co-operation is on account of their appalling illiteracy. My friends of the Opposition better know the position. It is not within the power of the Co-operative Department to impart education to 6 crores of people of Bengal. Sir, the work of this Department in all aspects has improved considerably during the present Ministry and if I am permitted to state the position by a comparative chart

it will be clear to everybody that the department has now made considerable progress. The following chart will indicate the financial position of the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank:—

Year.	Deposits held. (Lakhs.)	Fluid cover. (Lakhs).	Cash profit or loss. (Lakhs.)
1941-42 ..	145·97	(−) 33·82	(−) 1·73 (loss)
1942-43 ..	154·16	(−) 18·85	(−) 1·32 ,,
1943-44 ..	189·71	(+) 12·22	(+) 0·38 (profit)
1944-45 (Febuary 1945)	221·82	(+) 28·67	

Besides, the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank has repaid all the crop loans taken from Government. It has invested Rs. 17 lakhs in crop loans out of its own funds. Besides this, it has Rs. 1 crore invested in gild-edged securities. Therefore the position of the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank is much better now than it was when my predecessors were in office.

Regarding recoveries by the Central Banks from agricultural credit societies the position is as follows:—

1940-41—16·43 lakhs.
1941-42—21·12 lakhs.
1942-43—19·53 lakhs.
1943-44—28·74 lakhs.

This year's figure is not available.

Then coming to the recoveries of audit fees it will be seen that it was much less before than it is now, as the following will show:—

Recoveries of audit fees.—

1940-41—2·97 lakhs.
1943-44—4·90 lakhs.

I, therefore, feel Sir, that of all persons Mr. Mullick has no cause for complaint to make against this Department because this department has achieved better progress during the present Ministry than it had done during the last two Ministries. Then I will come to the point raised by Mrs. Hemaprova Majumdar regarding the handloom industries in Bengal. Her speech ought to have been delivered from a public platform: she selected a wrong forum. In her speech she has held the Co-operative Department responsible for the supply of cloth to the people of this country. She should know that it was only a few years ago that the Co-operative Department took up the charge of hand-loom industries and efforts were made with the Government of India's grant which was available since the year 1935 for its development and during this period the Department has achieved considerable progress and success. On the 30th June, 1943, the number of weavers' societies was 347 with 5,385 members. At present this Department has started 13 industrial unions and 947 weavers' societies with a total membership of 22,200. Honourable members should realise the difficulty that this province is dependent on other provinces in the matter of supply of yarn, but the yarn which is received by this province is not sufficient to meet the normal requirements. But still a considerable portion of it is being allotted to the weavers' societies. This department can form any number of weavers' societies, but unless and until a sufficient quantity of yarn can be made available to them, there is no use for starting these co-operative societies. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: How much yarn was distributed to these societies, do you know?) There is no figure exactly to show how much yarn was distributed, but so far more than Rs. 6 lakhs has been spent for the development of handloom industry out of the Government of India grant, which amounts to more than Rs. 7 lakhs. It has been pointed out by some honourable members that a very meagre sum has been

provided for the development of handloom industry, but the position is this that when schemes are adopted and sanctioned by the Government of India they grant the required amount and that amount is shown in the Budget. Throughout the year the Government of India gives some amount of money. Therefore, although the sum is very small, there is no reason to despair that the Government of India will not give us more money for the development of handloom industry if and when required. In 1944-45 the yarn to the total value of Rs. 8·5 lakhs was consumed by the weavers' societies and finished goods fetched Rs. 13 lakhs.

Now, Sir, in the Post-War Reconstruction proposal there is a scheme for the development of handloom industry and there is a proposal for starting a mill even. If fortunately the scheme is adopted, then perhaps there shall be no cause of grievance on this account.

Then, Sir, regarding the point raised by Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick. He said that every department is being efficiently run and many things which are being done by the Civil Supplies Department could have been done by this department. There I agree with him, but I do not agree that this department is not being efficiently run. The department is run very efficiently on all hands. Sir, a number of multi-purposes societies have been formed. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: ?) In the year 1942-43 there were 109 marketing societies: in 1943-44 the number was 191. In 1942-43 the number of Artisans including Fishermen's societies was 579 of which the number of weavers' societies was 347. In 1943-44 the number was 562 of which the weavers' societies were 336. In 1944-45 the number was 1,444 of which the weavers' societies were 1,027. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Like the one at Malda?)

Then, Sir, the concluding portion of Dr. Sanyal's speech is based on wrong information. So far as my information goes, the complaint about the Malda affair is not well-founded at all because the maximum share value which a particular individual was asked to take was Rs. 25 and not more than that. Therefore it cannot be said that his information is correct.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why not find out how many members have been enrolled?

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: I will look into it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But the share value as given by the Hon'ble Minister cannot be said to be correct. They have been asked to pay Rs. 20 in shares and Rs. 180 as deposit, that is, Rs. 200 in all.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: As regards the Serampore affair, it was brought to my notice and I think they are now getting Government controlled goods easily. As regards Chandpur, the Central Bank brought to my notice that they were experiencing some difficulty in distributing standard cloth. A complaint has been made to me from Brahmanbaria that the Subdivisional Officer has issued a circular to the Secretary of the Central Bank not to sell his stock without any permit. Of course, I have not yet found time to look into the matter. It reached me only three days ago. I promise to look into the matter. All grievances made in the speeches of honourable members could be profitably made against the Civil Supplies Department and not against my department because Dr. Sanyal knows very well that although he and I fully share the same view that the manifold problems in this country can be solved only through this department, up till now the Government of the province have not come to that decision, but we expect the day will come when Government as a whole will realise that. We expect a day will come when the Government as a whole will realise it. Now, Sir, before I conclude——

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: May I be allowed to put one question?

Mr. SPEAKER: Let him finish.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Now, Sir, before I conclude I must say a few words on the Rehabilitation and Debenture Scheme which has been hanging for a long time. This question has been raised by Mr. M. B. Mullick. This Debenture Scheme was submitted to him in the year 1939 during his Ministership. Then Mr. Aziz Ahmed was appointed as Registrar of the Co-operative Societies. He found the scheme defective and he drew up another scheme which might be called the Rehabilitation Scheme. That scheme also was before the Government in the year 1941. Mr. Aziz Ahmed left the department in September, 1942. All these legacies were given to us by the former Ministry; we are not responsible for them. What this Government has done is this: as we found some defects in both the schemes, as both the schemes in some respects were conflicting, we could not accept any of them, and then we proposed to appoint an expert adviser for the Co-operative Department and also a banking expert to examine the financial position of the Provincial Bank. When we proceeded with the appointment we found it extremely difficult to get a suitable person and the name of Sir Malcolm Darling was suggested and we approached Sir Malcolm Darling more than once but ultimately he did not agree to come over to Bengal. Now we have approached another co-operative authority, Sir Hugh Hood, who is one of the members of the Administrative Committee now sitting. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All foreign experts!) I would request my friend to suggest any name and we are prepared to consider his suggestion. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Dr. Querashi of Hyderabad—a Muslim.) Yes, I am prepared to see whether he is a suitable person and is available, but Dr. Sanyal should know that there are many difficulties in the way of getting a suitable person. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why did you not retain Mr. Aziz Ahmed?) He could not be spared. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: A man who was given training in this work could not be spared?) I asked for many civilians of Bengal but none of them could be spared. However, we expect that Sir Hugh Hood will agree to the proposal and will accept the offer, but it will take some time because he is very anxious to get some months' leave.

Now, we also on our part are very anxious to rehabilitate the co-operative movement in this province. We have been able to find out its difficulties and we have been able to suggest the remedies, but we are laymen. We expect that an expert adviser would join soon and he would suggest to the Government what schemes should be adopted finally I hope that within a very short time we will have that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Does Sir Hugh Hood know Bengali and would he be able to talk to villagers?

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: He is not required to talk to villagers; he is only to formulate schemes, because the co-operative department has innumerable officers to talk to villagers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Does he know Bengal village conditions?

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Very well. If Dr. Sanyal can cite happenings in other countries being a Bengali why should not a man from outside know the conditions of Bengal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I do not claim an appointment in the co-operative department in London.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Now, regarding the scaling down of the debts of the members of the co-operative societies, some progress has been made although it is not up to the expectation. Many of the meetings of the Special Debt Settlement Boards failed for want of quorum and we are trying to form the boards with those who are willing

to attend meetings regularly and directions have been given to the Director of Debt Conciliation and the Subdivisional Officers concerned to see that meetings are held properly and there is a speedy disposal of cases.

Now, Sir, in this regard some progress has been made. In 1940-41, the number of cases filed was 45,000 and disposal was 14,000—16 per cent. In 1941-42, the number of cases filed was 41,000 and disposal was 22,000—54 per cent. In 1942-43, the number of cases filed was 44,000 and disposal 26,000—the percentage is 59. In 1943-44, the number of cases filed was 34,000 and disposal 22,000—the percentage is 64. Therefore the work of the special boards set up for the settlement of debts of the co-operative debtors has progressed considerably.

Sir, some consumers co-operative societies—I think the number is 11—of Calcutta had been selected as dealers of ration goods and many of the Central Banks of this province have been entrusted with the distribution of yarn and some other Government controlled commodities. Although the bulk of the work of the Civil Supplies Department is being carried on by them, a portion of it has been entrusted to the co-operative organisations. There is a proposal under the contemplation of Government to convert these Thana and Union Food Committees into Co-operative Multi purposes Societies. There is a tendency in the country to form Co-operative Multi-purposes Societies and the scheme that has been formulated by me very recently also envisages the formation of Consumers Multipurposes Co-operative Societies throughout the whole province

Therefore, I find that all the constructive suggestions made by honourable members of this House have also been taken into consideration by the Government and every attempt is being made to give effect to them and we can only expect that all these matters will be taken up in right earnest very shortly and will be given effect to Before I take my seat I only request the honourable members to lend their sincere co-operation, so that the movement of co-operation in this Province may achieve the desired success.

Sir, I oppose all the cut motions

The motion of Mrs. Hemaprova Majumdar that the demand of Rs. 19,11,000 for expenditure under the head "42 Co-operation" be reduced by Rs 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to organise handloom industry in the province on a co-operative basis, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 19,11,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the mal-administration of the department and failure to encourage Co-operative Distributing Societies for equitable distribution of essential supplies to the community, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 19,11,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs 100 to raise a discussion about the general policy of the Government as to the Co-operative Department was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal that a sum of Rs. 19,11,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" was then put and agreed to.

25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 16,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation".

Mr. P. BANERJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 16,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about failure of

the Government to give real relief to the agriculturists and its policy in the formation of Debt Settlement Boards with persons, causing inordinate delay in disposing of cases.

Sir, after hearing the Hon'ble Minister in the previous debate on "Co-operation" one feels inclined to think what Mr. Fazlul Huq said in his statement the other day, viz., that these Ministers have skins of rhinoceroses and crocodiles. Today every member both for and against Government was vociferous in their condemnation of the Hon'ble Minister and his Department, but still the Hon'ble Minister was not ashamed to say that his Department was running very merrily and well. It has been said by some of the members supporting the Government that things have changed from what they were during the previous administration with the result that there has been some improvement, but while they were on the way of improvement, things had suddenly deteriorated. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has said that the speech of Mrs. Hemaprova Majumdar would fit well in the public park. This is a wonderful statement, but equally, on the opposite side, lacks at least in decency and decorum. Mr. Wordsworth has pointed out that this Department should have been at least amalgamated or rather the agricultural debtors should have been brought within the purview of this Board. This they could not do. We tried in 1935 to bring this Department, I mean the Co-operative Department, within the purview of B. A. D. Act or the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act as it was then named. Now, what has come to be true is that this was not only bad in nomenclature, but bad in application, and bad in every way. Strictly speaking it is the worst machinery through which the agriculturists have to pass to safeguard their interests What was the object of the Bill? Its object was to give relief to the agriculturalists in the matter of their indebtedness. Now, Sir, it was passed in 1935 or early in 1936 and since then so many years have passed and if we go and find out the details of the working of the Debt Settlement Boards, we will be surprised to find that cases are pending before the Boards for more than four years These poor agriculturists are made to come and go month after month and year after year to those Boards but to no effect. As regards the Subdivisional Officers they are also very busy, they cannot sit in courts. Even cases more than two years old are lying before them. This is the state of affairs that is prevailing. If we ask the Hon'ble Minister just to explain the real cause of it, possibly he will plead ignorance and perhaps he will give us an assurance that he will do everything possible. But that is not the point. The fact is that he has wasted his time and could not do anything. When the Act was passed it was decided that after the lapse of three years the Boards will be reconstituted. I can mention one Board, for instance, the Daulatpur Union Board which is not at all functioning for the last three months. When the Board is going to be reconstituted there is no knowing. We find that all the members barring one or two solitary exceptions are being again nominated there. In this way it must wait for 12 months to be reconstituted, and as I have explained, the result is that the agriculturists are put to a great inconvenience. My point is: why these cases should not be decided soon. If instead of these Boards these cases had been sent to the ordinary courts, they would have been decided long ago. But as at present, the object of the Act has been totally frustrated with the result that these agriculturists have to come almost every week from a great distance and go back. This they are doing for the last three or four years and these poor agriculturists have to do it at a tremendous sacrifice. Why should these cases not be disposed of quickly? These can be disposed of within a year. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to see that those boards which are under reconstruction are reconstituted immediately and the old cases dealt with without any further delay. Wherever any definite allegation against any official or any member of a Board who is found to be corrupt is made, he should be dealt with immediately. In this connection I may say that invariably they are corrupt. The Hon'ble Minister does not seem to know

about the corruption in his own Department though the members are vociferous in their condemnation not only of this department but also of other departments. Mr. Wordsworth who was speaking on this motion had suggested that these Departments, viz., the Agriculture and Co-operative Departments should be mixed up and placed under one Minister. I would also suggest that the Department of Rural Indebtedness, which is a temporary department and the Agriculture Department, should be treated as one portfolio. With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 16,00,000 under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about the unsatisfactory working of the Debt Settlement Boards in Bengal.

Sir, ঋণভারে জর্জরিত বাংলার দরিদ্র কৃষককুলের ঋণের ভার লাঘব করার জন্যই এই ঋণশালিসী বোর্ডের সৃষ্টি করা হয়েছিল। বাংলার কৃষককুলের উপর যখন ঋণের জগদ্দল পাথর আপতিত হয়েছিল তখনই তাদের সেই ভার লাঘব করার জন্য এই বিভাগের সৃষ্টি এবং ঋণশালিসী বোর্ড গঠনের চেষ্টা। ঋণশালিসী বোর্ড দ্বারা, সেই যে প্রকৃত দরিদ্র কৃষক যারা, যারা ঋণেরভারে এমন ভাবে আক্রান্ত হয়েছিল যে সেই ঋণ মুক্তির আর কোন উপায় ছিল না, সেই কৃষক তথা তপশীলভুক্ত জাতি এবং মুসলমানদিগের ঋণের মুক্তির উপায় এই বোর্ড দ্বারা বিশেষ কিছু হয় নাই। যা কিছু উপকার হয়েছে সেটা এক শ্রেণীর লোকের জন্য—গাঁধিদার class—এদেরই জমি জন্য কতকটা ঋণেতে আবদ্ধ ছিল। কোন কোন বোর্ডের দ্বারা সেই জমিগুলি তারা ছাড়ান পেয়েছে। কিন্তু প্রকৃত যারা দরিদ্র যারা কৃষক, যারা ঋণেতে এমনভাবে আক্রান্ত ছিল যে তাদের আর কোন উপায় নেই, তাদের উপকার বিশেষ কিছু হয়নি। এই যে বোর্ডগুলি, এই বোর্ডগুলির যে কাজ তার বেশীর ভাগ দেখা যায়—যে এক-একটা ঋণ সংক্রান্ত কোন মোকর্দ্দমা নিয়ে অনির্দ্দিষ্ট কালের জন্য তারা চালিয়ে যায়, কেন? সেটা বোঝা কঠিন। হয়ত একটি লোক তার সেই ঋণের জন্য বোর্ডের সামনে গিয়েছে ঋণমুক্তি হওয়ার জন্য। বোর্ডে সেই মোকর্দ্দমা হয়ত বছরের পর বছর চলেছে, এমন কি আমি দেখেছি চার বৎসর পর্য্যন্ত এক-একটা মোকর্দ্দমা চলেছে, তার কোন শেষ মীমাংসা হয়নি। হয়ত সেই ঋণের জন্য মহাজনের কাছে তার জমি আবদ্ধ আছে। সেই ঋণের যদি মীমাংসা হয় সে জমি সে ফিরে পেতে পারে। মহাজনের কাছে ঘুষ নিয়েই হউক অথবা যে কোন কারণেই হউক সেই বোর্ড, দিনের পর দিন মোকর্দ্দমার দিন ফেলতে থাকে এবং ঐ মোকর্দ্দমার মিটমাট করে না। সেই যে জমি আছে মহাজন যদি সেই মোকর্দ্দমা নিষ্পত্তি না হওয়ার জন্য আর চার বৎসর তার ফসল নিতে পারে তাহলে সেই ঋণের টাকা গিয়েও বেশী টাকা মহাজনের ঘরে যায়। এভাবের বহু সংখ্যক বোর্ডকে আমি জানি, যারা ২।৩।৪ বছরের মধ্যে মামলা-মোকর্দ্দমা মীমাংসা করেনি। আরো এই বোর্ডগুলির মধ্যে বহু Chairmanকে দেখা যায় যারা হয়ত তার সামনে কোন Union Board কিম্বা District Board কিম্বা অন্য কোন election এসেছে তখন ঐ অগণিত মোকর্দ্দমা তার Boardএর মধ্যে আটকে রাখে এবং ঋণভারে আক্রান্ত যারা তাদের যেন হাতের মধ্যে পুরে রাখে। শুধু তাই নয়; যারা ঋণী তারাও যেমন আটকে থাকে, তেমনি যারা মহাজন তারাও বাস্তবিক পক্ষে ঐ Chairmanএর হাতে আটকান থাকে। এই উদ্দেশ্য নিয়ে ঐ মামলা মোকর্দ্দমাগুলি সম্বন্ধে দিনের পর দিন ঐ দিন ফেলতে থাকে। এদিকে তাদের উপকার ত দূরের কথা, দুই পক্ষ থেকে যতই দিন বাড়তে থাকে, ততই Chairman এবং বোর্ডের memberদের ঘুষ খাওয়ার কেবল সুবিধা করে দেওয়া হয়। এই যে দুরবস্থা এই দুরবস্থার মধ্যে পড়ে এই ঋণের জাল থেকে মুক্তি না পেয়ে এ জাল যেন তাদের আরো বেশীগুণ বেড়ে গিয়েছে। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যদি এদিকে দৃষ্টি করেন এবং যদি এই মোকর্দ্দমাগুলির একটা নির্দ্দিষ্ট সময় করে দেন যে এত দিনের বেশী কোন কোর্টে কোন মোকর্দ্দমা থাকতে পারবে না তাহলে এ অসুবিধা থেকে তাদের মুক্তি হতে পারে।

তারপর যখন সেই মোকর্দ্দমা হয়, মহাজনের পক্ষ থেকে কিম্বা খাতকের পক্ষ থেকে যে ঘুষ দেওয়া হবে সেটার ব্যবস্থাও হয়েছে। যে আইন সৃষ্টি করা হয়েছে সেই আইন থেকেই যেন এ করে দিচ্ছে। একজন মহাজন হয়ত পাঁচ হাজার টাকা পাবেন বলে দাবী করেছেন, খাতক হয়ত ২০০৲ টাকা দিতে চাচ্ছেন। একটা মীমাংসা হবে বাবাবাবি। তাই মহাজনের পক্ষ থেকে যদি সেখানে এক হাজার টাকা মীমাংসা করানো হয় আর যদি ৫০০৲ টাকা ঘুষ দিলে ২,০০০৲ টাকা পাওনা হয় সেখানে মহাজনের পক্ষে ৫০০৲ টাকা ঘুষ দেওয়া লাভজনক। কাজেই এই কার্য্যপদ্ধতিতে এই ঘুষের ব্যবস্থা করে দিয়েছে। এমনিভাবে এই ঋণ-শালিসী বোর্ডের ব্যবস্থার

দ্বারা বাংলা দেশে ঘুসের প্রচলন দিনের পর দিন বেশী হয়ে যাচ্ছে। এ বিষয়েও Governmentএর দৃষ্টি দেওয়া বিশেষ আবশ্যক।

তারপর এই বোর্ডগুলিকে যখন গঠন করা হয় তখন বোর্ডগুলিতে যে নিয়মে মহাজন, খাতক, প্রজা সব দিক দিয়ে মেম্বর নেওয়া উচিৎ সে নিয়মের দিকে বর্ত্তমানে লক্ষ্য আদৌ করা হয় না। লক্ষ্য করা হয় যে সে অঞ্চলে সে মহাজনই হউক আর যত বড় লোকই হউক বর্ত্তমান Ministryকে যাঁরা সমর্থন করেন, যাঁরা বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের নিজের লোক তাদের ভিতর থেকে তার মেম্বর করানো হবে। এর দ্বারাতে বাংলার কৃষক, মুসলমান এবং তপশীলভুক্ত খাতকগণের কতটুকু উপকার করা হচ্ছে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি সেদিকে আকৃষ্ট হওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয়; এই বলে আমি আমার motion move করছি।

Maulvi ASIMUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 16,00,000 under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about the suspension of the activities of the Debt Settlement Boards in the district of Tippera specially in Chandena-Barua area, police-station Tippera.

অনেক দিন দুঃখ-কষ্টের পর, অনেকদিন কৃষক খাতকের পরাভবের পর Debt Settlement Boardএর সৃষ্টি হয়েছিল এবং সেই Debt Settlement Boardএর দ্বারা কৃষকদের খুব উপকার হবে এবং তাদের দেনা-পাওনা পরিশোধের একটা সুব্যবস্থা হবে এই আশা করা হয়েছিল। কিছুদিন পর কাজকর্ম্ম আরম্ভ করার পর দেখা গেল যে খালি এই Debt Settlement Boardএর কৃষকদের খাতকদের আসা যাওয়া এবং তারিখ ফেলতে থাকা এই রকম করে বছর চলে গেল এবং ২।৪।৫টা case মীমাংসা হলো আর বাকীগুলি pending রয়ে গেল। এর মধ্যেই আবার re-constitution না হওয়ার জন্য সারা জেলায় কাজ বন্ধ হইয়া গেল। আমার কয়েকটি থানার কথা আমি বলতে পারি। চাঙ্গিনা থানা ও কোতোয়ালী থানার কাজ একেবারে বন্ধ রয়েছে; কোন কাজ হচ্চে না। Re-constitutionএর জন্য Special Officer রয়েছে। এরা কাজকর্ম্ম দেখবার জন্য; সেই কাজকর্ম্ম এরা মোটেই দেখে না। Special Officer কোন কাজ করে না। তাকে কেন রাখা হয়েছে Government থেকে আমি বুঝি না। চার-পাঁচ বছর পর্য্যন্ত case পড়ে রয়েছে এবং খাতকেরা এতদিন আসা যাওয়া করেছে। মধ্যে মধ্যে দুধ খেয়ে কিছু কিছুকে খারিজ করে দেওয়া হয়েছে। কতকাল যাবৎ খাতকেরা আপিসে হাজিরা দিতে থাকবে? আর personal selection সম্বন্ধে, মনোনয়ন সম্বন্ধে, এরা বাড়ী বসে যে কয়েকটি নাম সংগ্রহ করে, তাদের বাড়ীতে আপিসে যেয়ে যারা ধর্ণা দেয়, ডালি দেয় এবং সর্ব্বদা হাজিরা দেয় কতকগুলি touts যারা dishonest ঘুষ খোর, এই রকম কতকগুলিকে বেছে বেছে এনে Boardএর member কোরে একটা Board গঠন কোরে দেয়। বাস্তবিক যারা সৎলোক, ভাল লোক, শিক্ষিত লোক, তারা কখনও কোন অফিসারের বাড়িতে, Circle Officerএর বাড়িতে, বা Special Officerএর বাড়িতে যাতায়াত করে না। কিন্তু সেই Special Officerরা মফঃস্বলে গ্রামে গিয়ে তালাস করে, জিজ্ঞাসা করে, নাম নিয়ে কেন Board গঠন করে না? এবং যে সকল Board গঠন করে দেওয়া হয়েছে ওদের মধ্যে কেরাণী চায় Matriculate এবং ১০৲ টাকার বেশী মাইনে দেয় না। এখন ১০৲ টাকায় বাসার চাকরাণী পাওয়া যায় না, আর কি করে Government আশা করতে পারেন যে Board এর কেরাণী, শিক্ষিত Matriculate, সে দশ টাকা বেতনে চাকরী করবে? সে কখনও তাতে রাজী হয় না এবং হতে পারে না।

Constitution সম্বন্ধে আমি বলতে চাই যে তিন বছর শেষ হয়ে গিয়েছে। Re-constitutionটা এর পরেও তিন-চার বছরে হতেছে না, এর কারণ কি? Government এ সম্বন্ধে কেন এখনও পর্য্যন্ত কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। এই রকমে যদি Debt Settlement Board অকেজো হয়ে থাকে সেটার প্রয়োজন কি? কৃষকদের দেনা পাওনার শোধ দেওয়ার একটা সুবিধা দেওয়া এর উদ্দেশ্য, কিন্তু যখন তা হয়নি কি কারণে Government ১৬ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করছেন এবং Special Officer করে ঘাঁড় পালছেন, সেটা আমরা আজ বুঝতে পারছি না। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে এ সম্বন্ধে Government কি করবেন। গত বৎসর আমাদের বৌলভী রবীজুদ্দিন আহমদ সাহেব এ সম্বন্ধে একটা Cut motion move করেছিলেন এবং মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলেছেন যে টিপারার District Magistrateকে আমি অনেক লিখেছি, সে বলেছে যে Officerরা যুদ্ধের কাজে খুব ব্যস্ত। এখন ত যুদ্ধ নেই; যুদ্ধ ত সব জয় হয়ে গিয়েছে, আকেয়াব এসব জায়গা থেকে সরে গিয়েছে সেখানকার ঘাঁটি থেকে soldier সরিয়ে নিয়েছে। এখন Special Officer মহকুমা Food Committeeর member এ সব কাজের দিকে step নেন না। (Here the member reached his time-limit) আর ২ মিনিট Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : এক মিনিট।

Mr. ASIMUDDIN AHMED : 1943 তে কোতোয়ালী থানার বারপাড়া Debt Settlement Boardএর চেয়ারম্যানের বিরুদ্ধে দরখাস্ত দিয়েছিল corruption সম্বন্ধে, ঘুষ নেওয়া সম্বন্ধে—দরখাস্ত করা হয়েছিল Ministerএর কাছে পর্য্যন্ত। সেই দরখাস্ত Subdivisional Officer তদন্ত করে তার বিরুদ্ধে report দেয় এবং সেই Unionটার কাজ আজ পর্য্যন্ত বন্ধ হয়ে আছে, আবার re-constitute করে নাই, ঐ রকম হয়ে আছে। Section অনুযায়ী কার্য্যকরী করবার যে ক্ষমতা সেসব দেওয়া হয়নি। বিধান রয়েছে section 19 এতে 40 per cent. মহাজন যদি সম্মত না হয় তাহলে তারা কোন মীমাংসা করতে পারে না। কাজেই ঐ সকল কতকগুলি বাধা বা defect রয়েছে। Government ইচ্ছা করে সেই সকল defect দূর করে না। এটা ভিতরে ভিতরে আবার মনে হয় Governmentএর connivance—একটা ইঙ্গিত আছে, ঐ সকল মহাজনদের সঙ্গে যে এদের এই রকম-ভাবে রাখা যাক, এবং খাতকদের দুর্ভোগ ভুগতে দেওয়া হোক। এ না হলে বারম্বার protest করা সত্ত্বেও বারম্বার আর্ত্তনাদ এবং cut motion করা সত্ত্বেও Government কেন কান দিচ্ছেন না, কেন তাঁদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষিত হচ্ছে না, কেন প্রতিকার নিচ্ছেন না। আশা করি অতি শীঘ্র এ সম্বন্ধে ব্যবস্থা করবেন।

Mr. J. A. POWELL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the demand of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Rural Indebtedness I want to make a few brief observations on the working of the Debt Settlement Boards. I will try to be as brief as I possibly can. These Boards have been in existence from the time of the passing of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act and the professed purpose for which they were brought into existence was to give to the debtors a speedy and just settlement of their debts. Now I propose to give my ideas as to what extent that purpose has been achieved. Some very interesting figures were published in December in the "Bengal Weekly" about the working of the Boards. They mention that debts amounting to 50 crores have been settled by awards totalling eighteen crores. That means that debts have been scaled down by no less than 64 per cent. and that out of 34 lakhs of cases instituted, 28 lakhs have been disposed of and six lakhs are outstanding. These figures, however, do not tell us the true story of how the Boards have been working. These Boards are composed of non-officials and they work very intermittently. Honourable members have already referred to the way in which Boards adjourn over and over again for very insufficient reasons, for lack of quorum and debtors and creditors have to incur considerable expense and find that nothing is done and the cases drag on in this way from year to year. It has been my experience that very often cultivators go to the Board with no real desire to settle their debts but in an attempt to effect further evasion and procrastination, and in this they have been remarkably successful. The Boards have stayed civil proceedings and every device for evasion has been successfully employed. Although agriculturists now-a-days are in a position to repay their debts they have been granted light instalments by these Boards and these instalments cannot be revised. I therefore maintain that the very object for which these Boards were constituted has failed to some extent at any rate, and not only failed but precisely the opposite effect has been produced; that is to say, many agriculturists are still in debt today, whose debts would have been cleared had it not been for the existence of these so-called Debt Settlement Boards. Honourable members are aware of the difficulties experienced when these Debt Settlement Boards become defunct and that no proper arrangements have been made for the disposal of the pending cases. If you consider the scaling down of debts by 64 per cent. in the light of the other circumstances, these delays, these expenses to creditors and debtors and the cost of all this attendance which had proved futile, I think you will agree that the creditors have had rather a poor deal. We know that many debts have been swollen by inequitous rates of interest and the Boards have been right in cutting them down. This should not apply, however, to the just dues of a landlord who has plenty of trouble, as it is, in collecting his rent and should not be subject to all this bother and expense.

Now, Sir, those boards are not going to last very much longer and the present is, in my opinion, a very opportune time for getting these debts settled. I should welcome an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister today that steps will be taken to speed up the work of these boards and that close supervision will be exercised over these boards which have become notorious for the irregular attendance of their members. They should be pressed to dispose without further delay of all outstanding cases and Government should also make proper arrangements to appoint special officers to settle those cases lying undisposed of by those boards which have become defunct without finishing their work.

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এই departmentএর দিকে খুবই অমনোযোগীতার ভাব দেখাচ্ছেন, আমার বন্ধু মৌলবী অছিরুদ্দিন সাহেব বলেছেন আমি ঐ সঙ্গে কয়েকটি কথা add করতে চাই যে Debt Conciliation Boardএর কেরাণীদের ও পিয়নদের প্রতি খুবই অবিচার হতেছে। এই যুদ্ধের বাজারে একটি Matric কমপক্ষে ৫০--১০০৲ শত টাকা মাসিক রোজগার করে থাকে, একটি সাধারন লোকও মাসিক ২৫--৫০৲ টাকা উপার্জন করে থাকে, গভর্ণমেণ্টের অন্যান্য বিভাগে বেতন ও ভাতা যথেষ্ট বৃদ্ধি করে দিতেছেন কিন্তু Debt Conciliation বিভাগের কেরাণী ও পিয়নদের জন্য আজ পর্য্যন্ত কোন ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই, মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কেন ইহাদের প্রতি অমনোযোগিতা দেখাচ্ছেন জানতে পারি কি?

Mr. SPEAKER : একথা একজন বলেছেন আর বলার কোন আবশ্যকতা নাই।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : আমার মনের ভাবত বলতে হবে।

Mr. SPEAKER : না তা বলতে পারেন না তাহলে পঞ্চাশজন এক কথাই বলবে।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : একটা P. L. A যদি ৫০--৭৫৲ টাকা পেতে পারে সালিসী বোর্ডের একজন কেরাণী লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার দলিলাত ও নথিপত্রাদি জিম্মায় থাকিয়া মুন্সেফ কোর্টের একজন দায়িত্বশীল কর্ম্মচারির কাজ চালাইয়া মাসিক ১০৲ টাকা পাওয়া যোগতর অন্যায় নহে কি? একটি পিয়নের বেতন ৮৲ টাকা, শিক্ষিত কেরাণী ও অশিক্ষিত পিয়নের মধ্যে তফাৎ ২৲ টাকা, ইহা অন্যায় অবিচার ও খামখেয়ালী নহে কি? এই অতি সামান্য বেতনও সালিসী বোর্ডের কেরাণী ও পিয়ন রীতিমত পাইতেছে না। ৮।৯ মাসের বেতন বাকী পড়িয়া রহিয়াছে। সালিসী বোর্ডের কেরাণী ও পিয়নের বেতন বৃদ্ধি করা অপরিহার্য্য কর্তব্য—তাহাদের ভাতা দেওয়াও কর্তব্য। Debt Conciliation Boardএর formation অনেক ক্ষেত্রে খাতকদের স্বার্থের বিরুদ্ধে হয়ে থাকে। ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্ম্মচারিগণ তাঁহাদের খয়েরখাহ অনুগত লোকদিগকে চেয়ারম্যান ও মেম্বর করে থাকেন যাহারা গ্রামে ঘুষখোর, টণিকরূপে পরিচিত বিশেষ করে আমার নোয়াখালী জেলায়--

Mr. SPEAKER : দু'মিনিট হয়ে গেছে আপনি কোন কাজের কথা বলছেন না কেবল অন্য লোকে যা বলেছে তাই।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : Sir, আমার জেলার Debt Conciliation Board ধ্বংস হয়ে যাচ্ছে আপনি যদি দু'মিনিট—

Mr. SPEAKER : আপনি কাজের কথা বলছেন না অন্যেরা যা বলেছেন তাই repeat করছেন।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : অন্যের কথা বলতে নেই--

Mr. SPEAKER : না তা allow করা যায় না। Ruleএ পরিষ্কার আছে যে একজন যদি একটি কথা বলে থাকে সেকথা আপনি আর বলতে পারেন না। নূতন কথা থাকলে সময় দিতাম। এখন দেড়টা বাজে আপনি বাজে কথা বলবেন না কাজের কথা বলুন।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : একজন যদি বলে তো হারাম হয়, কথা বলবো না?

Mr. SPEAKER : হারাম, তা হয়।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : কথা হচ্ছে যে Boardএ member নির্বাচনে যথেষ্ট পক্ষপাতিত্ব করেছেন।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপনাকে আর সময় দিতে পারবো না।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : কথা বলতে পারবোনা ?

Mr. SPEAKER : সময় কোথায় ? আপনি বাজে কথা বলছেন।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : Sir, একটু অল্প সময় দিন, নইলে কি করে হবে; আপনি Speaker, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : আচ্ছা বলুন একটা নূতন কথা শুনি কি বলবার আছে।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : আমি বলছি, Sir, ডায়প্রাপ্ত Union কর্মচারিগণ Union Board ও D. S. Board formationএতে দস্তুরমত ইঁসডিম, মুরগী ডিমের বিনিময়ে, কেরোসিন তেলের বিনিময়ে, চিনির বিনিময়ে এবং তাদের অন্যান্য জিনিষের বিনিময়ে torch lightএর বিনিময়ে, ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান ও মেম্বর নিযুক্ত করেন ও Nomination দিয়ে থাকেন।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপনি বসুন, Union Board আনছেন, এতো Debt Settlement Boardএর কথা। আপনি Union Boardএর কথা বলছেন কেন ?

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : আমি Debt Settlement সম্বন্ধেই বলছি, Sir, Union Board বলিনি। আপনি এত বিরক্ত হতেছেন, আমি যখন বাংলার দুর্ভাগা খাতকদের দুর্দশার কথা তাদের উপেক্ষার কথা বাংলার Assemblyতে বলতে চাই। তবে বসে পড়লাম।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমি একটি নূতন কথা বলি।

Mr. SPEAKER : আর সময় নেই।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : এক মিনিটে বলবো। অনেক খাতকের বিরুদ্ধে মহাজনেরা নালিশ করে। ডিক্রী করার পর যখন নীলামের ইস্তাহার জারি হোলো তখন এই সালিশী বোর্ডে যাওয়ার সময় থাকাতে তারা সালিশী বোর্ডে যায়। সেখানে দরখাস্ত দিয়ে নীলাম স্থগিত প্রার্থনা করে। অনেক চেয়ারম্যানের মহাজনের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ আছে। স্থগিত আদেশটি আদালতে বিলম্বে পাঠায় কাজেই অনেকের সম্পত্তি নিলাম হয়ে যায় এই অবস্থায় অনেক খাতকের সর্বনাশ হয়ে যায়। খাতকেরা এই সালিশ বোর্ড আইন সংশোধিত হওয়ার ফলে সেই সালিশ বোর্ডে আবার যায় কিন্তু চেয়ারম্যান সেসব মামলা খারিজ করে দিলে পর তারা অনেকে S. D. O.'র কাছে আপীলে আসে। আপীলে আসার পর S. D. O. সাহেব এক বছর, দেড় বছর করে ঘুরাচ্ছেন, সেই সমস্ত মামলা করছেন না। আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের সেদিকে দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Government prepared to extend the operation of section 37A of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors (Amendment) Act because the people did not know that the time had so soon expired?

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Sir, a reply cannot be given offhand.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time at my disposal is very short and I do not propose to detain the House for more than a few minutes.

Sir, complaints have been received about delay in disposing of cases. I would remind the members of the House that the members of the Debt Settlement Boards are honorary members and debts are settled by persuasion. No compulsion is desirable and we have found that many of the meetings of the Debt Settlement Boards failed for want of quorum. Now, Sir, all attempts are being made to expedite the disposal of cases by strict supervision and by reconstitution of undesirable boards and by replacement of undesirable and unattending members. Now, the benefits derived from the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act cannot be denied by anybody and had not the Act been in operation in this province, perhaps the poor agriculturists of Bengal would have been turned into labourers or serfs.

Now, Sir, the present position is this. A report of the progress that is available stands thus. Out of about 34 lakhs of cases, 29 lakhs of cases have been disposed of including disposal and transfer. Out of these 29

lakhs of cases, nearly 13 lakhs have been disposed of by awards and certificates. The aggregate amount of loans in respect of these cases was about Rs. 52 crores. They were determined at about Rs. 32 crores and reduced to Rs. 19 crores in awards. Thus the percentage of final reduction is 63. The present position about the number of boards is that at present there are 3,999 ordinary and 363 special boards. I am glad to inform the House that in some areas most of the debts have been settled and the process of dissolution of boards has commenced. Up till now 1,182 ordinary and 14 special boards have been dissolved.

Now, Sir, some remarks were made by my friend Maulvi Asimuddin Ahmed in his speech. I take that speech as an outburst of the mind of a prejudiced person. His speech is not founded on facts. Any complaint that may have been made to me has always been attended to and enquired into, and suitable and necessary action is always taken.

With these few words, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Mr. P. Banerji that the demand of Rs. 16,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about failure of the Government to give real relief to the agriculturists and its policy in the formation of Debt Settlement Boards with persons, causing inordinate delay in disposing of cases, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 16,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the unsatisfactory working of the Debt Settlement Boards in Bengal, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Asimuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 16,00,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the suspension of the activities of Debt Settlement Boards in the district of Tippera specially in Chandesa-Barura area, police-station Tippera, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal that a sum of Rs. 16,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" was then put and agreed to.

56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 35,55,400 be granted for expenditure under the head "56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 1-35 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Monday, the 19th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 19th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 188 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Excavation of the river Noakhali in Khulna.

***204. Mr. PATIRAM ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that an amount for the excavation of the upper portion of the river Nowkhali in Khulna for joining the same with Betna was sanctioned in 1941;

(*ii*) that the execution of the work was taken up by the District Board, Khulna;

(*iii*) that the work was accordingly begun in 1942 and it was stopped after excavating only a small portion of the river in question; and

(*iv*) that the excavated lower portion of the river Nowkhali is fast going to be inactive having not been joined with the Betna?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take for joining the Nowkhali with the Betna immediately?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain): (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) Yes, the work was stopped by the District Board of Khulna as it was unable to bear its share of one-third of the cost which increased greatly on account of the War condition.

(*iv*) It cannot be said that the *khal* is fast going to be inactive.

(*b*) The District Board has very recently intimated its inability to go on with the work. The estimate is now under revision by the Engineers of this department. The question of its execution will be considered on receipt of the estimate.

Irrigation schemes for Bankura district.

***205. Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any Irrigation scheme, major or minor, has been made by the Government for the district of Bankura;

(*ii*) if so, the names of the schemes and progress of work, if any, of any of the said schemes; and

(iii) whether he is aware of the fact that the effective system of irrigation channels, called the Subhankari Daura (Khal), made by the Bishnupur Raj, in the northern part of the Sonamukhi thana, which would and could irrigate 80 square miles of land has now become practically silted?

(b) If the answer to (a)(iii) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Government to make the said "Subhankari Khal" useful for the proper irrigation facilities for the vast area in order to counteract the natural liability of that area to drought?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain): (a)(i) Yes.

(ii) The schemes shown below have been taken up and considerable progress has been made in most of them—

(1) Rukhni Khal scheme,

(2) Bhaduldaha scheme,

(3) Aher scheme,

(4) Pariarbund scheme,

(5) Hirbund scheme, and

(6) Rangabund scheme.

(iii) Yes, but no information as to the area which was irrigated by the canal system is available.

(b) A scheme has been drawn up and is now under technical examination.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: With reference to answer (a)(iii) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what attempt was made to make an estimate of the area?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: An estimate is being prepared and is under examination of the Technical Adviser.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Sir, my question has not been replied to. My question is, what attempt was made by Government to make an estimate of the area that was irrigated by the canal system?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: What attempt was made to obtain the information?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I ask for notice.

Financial position of Faridpur District School Board.

*208. **Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether he is aware—

(i) that the financial position of the Faridpur District School Board is very precarious; and

(ii) that teachers of the free primary schools under the Board did not get their pay for November, December and January last?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

Khan Sahib MAFIZUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (a)(i) Not very satisfactory.

(ii) The teachers did not get their pay in time for paucity of funds.

(*b*) Government sanctioned for Faridpur District School Board, an additional grant of Rs.2,11,300 during 1943-44 and Rs.1,63,020 during 1944-45. Over and above this, Government have sanctioned during 1944-45 dearness allowance to teachers of all primary schools approved by the Director of Public Instruction at the rate of Rs.3 per month per head.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the teachers are getting their pay in time, that is, monthly?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: At present they are getting their pay regularly. The question refers to the year 1943.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that in many districts the primary school teachers do not get their pay monthly but get their pay three or six months after?

Khan Sahib MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: That is not a fact.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government made any enquiry about the reason of the unsatisfactory condition of District School Board?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: So far as the fund of the District School Board of Faridpur is concerned, education cess was realised to the extent of 12 or 13 per cent

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: How much is the total amount realised?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: The question refers to the year 1943, and my reply is, only 12 or 13 per cent.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: My question is, how much is the total amount that has been realised?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Deaths due to starvation in Bengal during 1943.

*207. **Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state how many people died of starvation for want of food in the year 1943, all over Bengal?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): The honourable member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 365 on the subject.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: The present system that has been in existence entrusts this duty to the Sanitary Inspectors in addition to their own duties for which their normal duties suffered and at the same time they could not submit the figures In view of this, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing separate clerks for that purpose?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Government will consider the suggestion of the honourable member.

Appointment of Assistant Section-Holders in Bengal Government Press.

*208 and *209. **Mr. MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI and Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL:** (*a*) With reference to the reply to starred question

Nos. 86 and 100 given on 8th December, 1944, and 11th December, 1944, respectively, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it can be denied that compositors and Assistant Section-Holders in the Bengal Government Press, are in different line of service and that appointment of compositors to the posts (not in the same line of service) of Assistant Section-Holders cannot be treated as promotion; and

(*ii*) whether it is not a fact that Communal Ratio Officer ruled that the appointment of a permanent piece-worker to a salaried post in the same line of service should be treated as promotion?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister please state reason thereof?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table, the full text of Communal Ratio Officer's ruling on this subject?

(*d*) Whether it is a fact that 7 vacancies in the posts of Assistant Section-Holder in the Bengal Government Press have recently been filled up by 7 Caste Hindus on the plea of promotion?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the reason therefor; and

(*ii*) whether he is considering the desirability of cancelling such appointments and filling up the vacancies according to Communal Ratio Rules?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) (*ii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami): (*a*)(*i*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*ii*) I do not consider it to be in the public interest to supply the information.

(*b*) Compositors and Assistant Section-Holders are in the same line of service and the appointment of a compositor to the post of Assistant Section-Holder is a promotion in the same line of service.

(*c*) I do not consider it to be in the public interest to supply the information.

(*e*) (*i*) The posts were filled by the promotion of the seven suitable compositors.

(*ii*) No.

(*f*) The Communal Ratio Rules do not apply to cases of promotion.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Appointment of Assistant Section-Holders in the Bengal Government Press.

63 and 64. Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM and Khan Bahadur FAZLUR RAHMAN: (*a*) With reference to the reply to starred question Nos. 86 and 100 given on 8th December, and 11th December, 1944, respectively, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it can be denied that compositors and Assistant Section Holders in the Bengal Government Press, are in different line of service and that appointment of compositors to the posts (not in the same line of service) of Assistant Section-Holders cannot be treated as promotion; and

(*ii*) whether it is not a fact that Communal Ratio Officer ruled that the appointment of a permanent piece-worker to a salaried post in the same line of service should be treated as promotion?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister please state reason thereof?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table, the full text of Communal Ratio Officer's ruling on this subject?

(*d*) Whether it is a fact that 7 vacancies in the posts of Assistant Section-Holder in the Bengal Government Press have recently been filled up by 7 Caste Hindus on the plea of promotion?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the reason therefor, and

(*ii*) whether he is considering the desirability of cancelling such appointments and filling up the vacancies according to Communal Ratio Rules?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) (*ii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami: The honourable members are referred to the answer given to starred questions Nos. 208 and 209 on the 19th March, 1945.

Re-excavation of tanks under rehabilitation programme.

65. Mr. MIRZA ADDUL HAFIZ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of tanks which were excavated and re-excavated under the rehabilitation programme in the whole Province, district by district; and

(*ii*) the number of tanks which have been completed and which have not been completed, district by district?

(*b*) Does the Government consider the desirability of making arrangement for completing the incompleted tanks for the public interest?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): (*a*) No tank has been excavated. The statement below will show the number of tanks re-excavated and completed as well as the number of tanks not yet completed.

		Number of tanks re-excavated and completed.	Number of tanks on which work has not been completed.
Bankura	..	96	143
Birbhum	..	105	134
Burdwan	..	..	6
Malda	..	3	..
Murshidabad	..	2	4
Total	..	206	287

(*b*) Government have already made arrangements for the completion of the tanks not yet completed.

Held over Starred Question No. 143.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions over. I should now like to tell the House that starred question No. 143 of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu regarding the assault on the security prisoners in the hospital ward of the Rajshahi Jail, which was held over from the 6th March, 1945, will be taken up tomorrow, that is, the 20th March, 1945. The question was printed in the Ninth List of Starred Questions which was circulated to members on the 5th of March, 1945. Members are requested to kindly bring in their printed copies for their use tomorrow.

Arrangement for reporting Hindi speeches.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I invite your attention to a letter received by us from your office communicating a copy of the letter from the Home Department regarding the arrangement for reporting Hindi speeches?

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you kindly resume your seat? I will see to it later.

Applications for leave of absence.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do permit Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, Mr. Jnanendra Chandra Majumdar, Mr. Pratul Chandra Ganguli, Mr. Satyapriya Banerjee, Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta and Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar representing Calcutta South General, Mymensingh East General, East Bengal Municipal General, Rajshahi General, Jalpaiguri-cum-Siliguri General and Barrackpore Registered Factories (Factory and Colliery) Labour Constituencies respectively to be absent for the period from the 20th November, 1944, till the end of the present session for which they find they are unable to attend meetings of the Assembly.

The motion was then put and agreed to

Srijut ASHUTOSH MULLICK: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do permit Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath Banerjee and Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti representing Calcutta and Suburbs Registered Factories (Factory and Colliery) Labour, Howrah Registered Factories (Factory and Colliery) Labour and Midnapore South-East General Constituencies respectively to be absent for the period from the 20th November, 1944, till the end of the present session for which they find they are unable to attend meetings of the Assembly.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Question regarding the health of Ramesh Chandra Acharya.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Speaker Sir, I draw your attention to the fact that long, long ago I tabled one short-notice question to which consent was not given and then I tabled a regular question about the health of Ramesh Chandra Acharya and Kedareswar Sen. Of course, with regard to the health of Kedareswar Sen, questions were put by other members and it was discussed. But about Ramesh Chandra Acharya we are not getting any report whatsoever from the Government and no answer to my question. Sir, may I ask through you the Hon'ble Minister whether his attention has been drawn to it and where and how is Ramesh Chandra Acharya? We hear that his condition is very, very bad and he has become practically invalid.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: We will attend to that question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at this stage may I invite your attention to a circular letter sent round today conveying to us——

Mr. SPEAKER: I will hear you tomorrow. Let me read it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: This must have been circulated under your orders.

Mr. SPEAKER: My orders surely. I want to study it further. You raise it tomorrow.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I would only submit that this matter be referred to the Privilege Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: Make your submission tomorrow.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir. We will be, in that event, insisting on the *rashtrabhasha*. So far as the Congress benches are concerned, so far as we can manage in our humble way, we will be using the *rashtrabhasha* in future.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

XVII, etc.—Irrigation.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,31,31,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expesnses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works."

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the head "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (*i*) the absence of any comprehensive policy for tackling the irrigation problems of the Province as a whole; (*ii*) inadequacy of the arrangements for the River Research Institute; (*iii*) haphazard character of emergency and rehabilitation irrigation works and maladministration and wastefulness in connection therewith; and (*iv*) delay in dealing with Damodar Flood Control Projects.

Sir, hardly any speech is, I hope, necessary to convince Government or, at any rate, this House of the logic contained in each one of these arguments. For the last few years, this House is aware how we from this section of the Assembly have been insistently demanding greater and more extended efforts on the part of the Government of Bengal to tackle the much-needed problems of irrigation in this province. I must in all fairness to the Government recognise that after long, long years, there has been some sign of added interest in this department of late. But, Sir, although from the figures it is noticed that more than a crore of rupees of additional sum is provided in the current year and is also proposed to be provided in the budget for the next year, this House is still at a loss to understand whether the Government of Bengal have before them any comprehensive scheme to deal with the problems of irrigation regarding various different types of rivers in this province. You may be aware that the conservation of rivers in certain areas, the maintenance of irrigation channels in other areas, the question of silting up of tidal rivers in the tidal zones, the problems connected with the resuscitation of deltaic rivers in Central Bengal, the difficulties due to erosion and the consequent havoc created

in certain other parts of Bengal and, lastly but not the least, the terrible disasters that have got to be faced at times due to floods, have all their different aspects and I would like the Hon'ble Minister in charge to take this House into confidence as to whether the Government of Bengal have so far got any comprehensive scheme to deal with these different problems in all their different aspects touching the life and death of the people in the different parts of Bengal. It has been talked of that there are several schemes of the Government of Bengal now under consideration and active examination. Some of these schemes have been pretty old schemes extending, if I may say so, over a quarter of a century. Among such schemes, Sir, of course the first and foremost is the Damodar Flood Control scheme. There is also the much-needed More scheme of the district of Birbhum. There are schemes relating to Darkeswar, Silai, Kaliaghya and Kasai. All those are connected with flood control and irrigation projects more or less. These schemes of West Bengal rivers where torrential floods come and take tolls of life and property from time to time have their own problems. Connected with that scheme is also the Howrah-Hooghly Flushing scheme that ultimately provides practically the spill channel for the flood control projects of West Bengal improving at the same time the health and agricultural conditions of a vast, and at one time, prosperous area. I would like the Hon'ble Minister to explain to us, if he can today, what is the position of each of these West Bengal schemes that have been hanging fire for a pretty long time

Coming to Central Bengal we had been told times without number that the Central Bengal river system which is more or less a series of spilled channels from the major river Ganges right from the Bhagirathi down to the Coomer, Mathabhanga and Grai—all these are serving a very fertile, at one time at least, area and a most populous area of Murshidabad, Nadia, Jessore and Khulna. The resuscitation of these had been before the Government, contour surveys were taken and there were several different projects thought of. In that connection I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister what is the present position with regard to each one of these schemes—schemes for maintaining the channels going through, passing through these four important districts of Central Bengal comprising the entire Presidency Division.

Coming to North Bengal similarly we had from time to time various projects discussed, but the schemes in regard to North Bengal river system could not be proceeded with for want of proper data as a result of absence of contour survey in the past. I would in that connection like to know whether and to what extent contour survey of the North Bengal as a whole has been actively undertaken and what special arrangements have been made to find out how far some of the smaller projects that do not and must not await final examination of all the other projects are in the process of being taken up actively. In regard to one portion of North Bengal I understand, and from a note in the Budget there is an indication thereof, that there are special circle of Superintending Engineers constituted there. I presume one of these circles is the circle over which a special officer has been appointed to examine the Teesta barrage and Dam scheme with a view to find out how far by a suitable daming of the river Teesta a multiple purpose Dam may be provided for generating electricity and at the same time for controlling the flood in some parts of northern Bengal. May we know in that respect what special arrangements have been made to see that in connection with this project suitable provisions, suitable opportunities are being ensured for Indians and for Indian commercial enterprise to be associated with electrification or electrical schemes of north Bengal? It appears to me, Sir, that so far as the Chittagong Division and the Dacca Division are concerned, there is still a very large amount of attention to be given to that side. In regard to Mymensingh district my information is that large areas particularly of Mymensingh are now in the grip of malaria

and disastrous conditions are noticed, because during the last few years some of the very capable and useful rivers are on the decay. The river system also of Tippera to which my esteemed friend Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta has invited attention of this House many times through his insistent demand regarding Gumti and Teesta does require also some amount of attention. Great attention is also necessary Sir, for the Chittagong area, particularly for the fact that in some parts of Chittagong control of river can side by side go with the generation of electricity which has been one of the fruitful sources of economic regeneration in other parts of the world. I submit, Sir, that this House is entitled to know the details of these projects at least once in a year during the Budget discussions and if it is not possible for the Hon'ble Minister here and now to give us the full details or ideas about all these projects, he should take the earliest opportunity to acquaint this House with the progress made in the field of irrigation in different parts of Bengal.

Sir, with regard to one aspect of irrigation projects I feel that greater attention and more cautious move are called for In particular, I have noticed that large sums of money are being provided this year in connection with the Grow-more-food scheme of irrigation and other temporary irrigation works. In that connection two important measures appear to have been taken so far. The first measure is the introduction of pump irrigation on the recommendation of an irrigation expert like Sir William Stampe This Stampe pump method has, I submit, not yielded results as were originally anticipated, and I feel that the money spent on this Stampe pump method is likely to be absolutely wasted. There are so far only three places in Bengal where this Stampe pump method has been made an experiment of and in almost every one of these three places, the public have not, for reasons best known to the Department, been benefited in any way through the use of this pump irrigation Why this has been so is a matter that requires investigation It appears to me that there is an apathy of the people against this system of irrigation. In the district of Malda, through the enthusiasm probably of an erstwhile member of the Government, a pump irrigation scheme was projected, but I presume that as soon as he left the Ministerial side, that pump also had gone out of order. In regard to Murshidabad and Nadia, the other places where this system of irrigation is under experiment, similar results are reported. I would, therefore request the Hon'ble Minister to examine the results, the pros and cons, the financial implication, very carefully before this experiment is further extended and money spent thereon.

The other manner in which the "Grow More Food" Irrigation project has been followed——

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, may I submit that we have started early and may I have five minutes more?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given you more time and I will give you some more time, but try to finish as early as possible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In regard to the second system, namely, draining off Bil area and cutting new drainage channels, there also I have come to know that there is a great danger of some of these drainage channels that are now being opened up getting silted up in no time because a rather haphazard action is being permitted in that connection. The maintenance of channels by merely cutting open some of the old beds is an intricate problem and unless there is a proper survey and examination, for which the Director of River Research was appointed, such projects are always likely to be a source of eternal expenditure and trouble. I feel that if this haphazard method is permitted to go on for a long time, there may in the long run be some harmful effect to the river system as a whole. This is

because of the syphon action that might be operative in drawing out of the major sources water through offtakes that are absolutely inter-connected with the maintenance and conservation of the entire river system as a whole although the local people do not understand the implications thereof over a large area. I would like to know whether Government had taken the advice of any expert in this country, and if not, whether there has been any guarantee provided against the possible silting up of these channels in the course of one or two years and the consequent waste practically of a crore of rupees in a short time.

Coming secondly to the question of River Research Institute I find from the Budget that very poor progress has been made in that connection so far. It is now more than two years that the Director of River Research has been appointed. I would like to know what practical contribution that expert has given to the resuscitation and rehabilitation of the river system in Bengal so far. And if it has not been possible for him to produce any tangible and practical result, it is up to Government to explain why this has not been so possible. I feel that before we appoint a staff we must have a full scheme as how to utilise the services of that staff. It is my information that the Director of River Research Institute has as yet not been provided with any fully equipped laboratory or any building where to have his experiment. And if there is no experiment made and no experimental station provided for him, it is idle to expect that any well-planned project can be recommended by him.

In regard to all these schemes and projects one thing that strikes me as providing a bottle-neck to the entire system of improvement schemes is the want of adequately trained staff. I should expect the Hon'ble Minister to let us know what arrangement, special or otherwise, he has made in strengthening the staff barring the invitation extended to some temporarily brought-in foreign experts; what arrangement he has made so far to train suitable Indians, preferably Bengalees, in the great task of building up a river system in Bengal. Has he got before him any plan to send abroad suitable young men from Bengal for training in America, in Britain, and in some other parts of the globe like Australia and Canada for the time being, barring Germany and Italy where now they cannot possibly go for training? Has any attempt been made to send any suitable Indians, and Bengalees in particular, to obtain necessary training for undertaking the great task of building up a river system in Bengal? In this connection I feel that a very definite technical training is needed, particularly for those who would be and would have to be associated with the schemes of constructing multi-purpose dams. Hardly any higher training is possible in this country on these lines and therefore special efforts must be made to get men trained abroad and to have young men of India associated with those who are brought-in as experts and who can arrange suitable training abroad.

I am aware that in regard to the Damodar Flood Control Project there has been a good deal of correspondence, negotiations and advertisement. We would like to know at what stage the Damodar Flood Control Project now lies. It is reported that the Government of India has appointed a Special Commission to undertake survey of the long-term multi-purpose dam, while the Government of Bengal is proceeding with an independent estimate and preparation of details drawing up the scheme in regard to the immediate Flood Control project. May we know in what respect the Government of Bengal are devising their work to fit in into the bigger scheme of the Government of India's multi-purpose dam covering the entire Damodar area like the Tennessee Valley Scheme of the United States of America for the Mississippi area and the Tennessee Valley area? Has there been any co-ordinated scheme placed, and having had that co-ordinated scheme before their eyes, are Government only proceeding with the Flood Control portion of the same for the time being, or we will be told that after

the War is over, now that the dangers to Railway so far as war efforts are concerned have been minimised, the comprehensive scheme need not be proceeded with? We know that large sums of money have been spent on the Damodar Embankment Project. If even a part of that money could have been well spent in permanent measures, things would have been very much better. I realise, Sir, we have no choice. The threat was immediate and we had before us a position from which we could not extricate ourselves without spending huge sums of money. I understand, an expert of the Tennessee Valley, Mr. Voorduin, has been appointed Electrical Adviser to the Central Power Board, and Mr. Mathews, who was formerly the Electrical Commissioner, has been appointed Chairman of the Central Power Board. I believe that the Government of Bengal also has got great interest in this work. May we know what arrangement the Government of Bengal has made to associate with the work of that Board some suitable Bengal Engineer at all stages to be in a position to take and continue over the good work later on when some of these experts retire? I feel that unless immediate steps are taken in this direction, much good work might be all ultimately vanishing. Much has been made, Sir, of the association of an esteemed European, Mr. L. K. Elmherst, in connection with the Bengal Irrigational and Agricultural planning problem. Would it be surprising to you to know that Mr. Elmherst of whom the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Finance has made much, has left India in sheer disgust and while leaving, has told his friend that he has little hope of any salvation from the hands of the present Government of Bengal. He made it clear that all the schemes that he projected, all the improvements that he proposed, had been quashed. He is reported to have said, "there was one little Minister (the Agriculture Minister, I believe, he meant) who was well meaning but he could not have his way and Mr. Elemhirst ultimately got disgusted". All his other colleagues were looking to other interests than the interests of the country and in that atmosphere he did not care to remain. He left India for good.

I submit that the Government of Bengal at the present stage should set up some kind of expert machinery that would keep itself free from the usual political interferences and in order to tackle important problems of this character that require expert guidance at different stages would be in a position to advise whichever Government comes to office freely and without any political bias. Technical guidance may be available for any Government from such a board. It is necessary, and it has been done in other parts of the world, to set up a technical board which would be available for advice on many matters connected with irrigation, flood control, electrification, multi-purpose dams, and so on. Now that the Government of Bengal have before their eyes problems of irrigation connected with not merely agricultural improvement, not merely the improvement of health, not merely questions of improvement of communications, not merely problems of conservation and saving people from erosions and floods but also the problem of giving them cheap electricity, this necessity of setting up a technical board has become all the greater.

I will not today spoil the atmosphere by bringing in matters of maladministration in the actual handling of affairs which I reserve for some other time. I feel that the time has come when all of us should combine and make every effort to save Bengal and build the province anew and with that programme of building Bengal let us proceed to examine our irrigation projects.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII. etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about haphazard undertaking without proper scheme and without advice from experts.

Sir, I must confess that I have not that technical knowledge with which one can with some benefit criticise the Government's irrigation schemes. I

shall try to tell the House how this Irrigation Department is working from a popular point of view. Sir, every one of us will agree that health, agriculture, as Dr. Sanyal said, trade, industry and communication largely depend on efficient and scientific working of irrigation, embankment and navigation.

Sir, if we study the budgeted figures of past years we can easily find that this department has always been very much neglected for long years past. As a result the natural waterways, rivers, drainage have all silted up, dried up and are dying day by day. Sir, I know that rivers Atrai and Punarbhaba and Jamuna running through the district of Dinajpur and the new branch of Brahmaputra known as Jamuna passing through the district of Mymensingh have all been dried up. As a result the *bandars*, the important trade centres on the river banks have all closed down. People who were connected with trade and industry in those *bandars* and trade centres have all been thrown out of employment. Flood and erosion visit almost every year and as a result malaria and other diseases are prevailing and are taking toll of a large number of deaths. Sir, this very important department, one of the most important nation-building departments, has been ignored for long years and improvements should be taken up as early as possible but with proper schemes behind them.

Sir, from last year some stray undertakings have been taken up in the North Bengal districts. When Maharaja of Cossimbazar was the Minister in charge of the department he budgeted about three or four lakhs of rupees for the contour survey of the North Bengal districts as the experts said that without contour survey there could be no irrigational projects done with any profit. I wait to hear from the Minister whether anything towards contour survey has been done in those districts and, if so, what amount out of that 7½ lakhs of this year's budget provision and 3 or 4 lakhs of the previous year's has so far been spent in contour survey. And if the opinion of the expert that no scientific, no proper useful irrigational work can be done without contour survey be true, I must say that these stray works taken up in Bogra, Jalpaiguri, Malda and Dinajpur are sure to fail. Not only these works will fail but in the long run they are sure to prove harmful to the interests of agriculture and health in those districts.

As far as I know, Sir, no expert opinion has been consulted in taking up small projects in those districts. Moreover, the contractors that have been appointed to perform these works are not experienced old contractors but are new contractors, and I am sure execution of work will not be satisfactory and scientific in their hands. I am not exaggerating when I say that in the North Bengal districts and in East Bengal since the advent of British rule nothing practically was spent under these heads. If you have in your mind to do something for these districts I would implore you to do these works not only to show that you are doing some beneficial work for the people of those districts but you must do it for really rendering them such service.

As I was saying, Sir, health, agriculture, industry, communication and trade are vitally concerned with irrigation on which depend the prosperity and happiness of people. Dr. Sanyal in his elaborate and learned speech I should say not only criticised the Government schemes and projects in West Bengal by naming them individually but gave them valuable suggestions. I believe, Sir, that if Government will only care to take note of his suggestions they will certainly profit by them. In West Bengal we have seen that these projects have either failed or have not at all been profitable. On the contrary, they have been a great burden on the peasantry in general. As a result there has been deterioration in prdouction both in quality and quantity. There has been uncertain production also of the crops. This had also the effect of spreading diseases. There are vast tracts of land in Dinajpur and other districts which remain water logged for the most part of the year. They become the source of malaria and other diseases and add

to the loss of vast tracts of arable land. Therefore it is all the more necessary that Government should give proper attention to it. After the bitter experience about irrigational projects in West Bengal we expected that Government would carefully proceed with these projects, but we have been very much disappointed. Really, Sir, when these projects were taken up in the North Bengal districts which Dr. Sanyal mentioned, I must say that we were very much delighted that Government had taken interest in these vital matters, but when actually the works commenced we were very much disappointed. I request the Hon'ble Minister in charge to take our observations in the helpful manner and attitude in which we are making them. We are here not simply for criticising him adversely. I would ask him to go and visit these areas—Dinajpur and other districts—and see how they are working. I am sure he will agree with me that these projects, if not guided by proper expert advice, will only end in a huge waste and will not benefit the public but may be harmful to them.

Maharajadhiraja Bahadur UDAY CHAND MAHTAB, of Burdwan: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the amendment standing in the name of Babu Ashutosh Lahiry and other members of our group, namely, that the demand of Rs 1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to execute any important irrigation work for "Grow More Food" Campaign and Rehabilitation Scheme

Sir, as I entered the room this evening I heard Dr. Sanyal speaking on most of the points that I had thought of bringing up this evening. Anyhow it has been a good thing, for in that case I can be brief and need not go into all the details.

The most vital need of scientific knowledge and careful planning in the field of irrigation has been emphasised for the last seven years on the floor of this House by members of every party of the legislature and every Ministry has in clear and unequivocal terms spoken of the dire necessity for immediate improvement in the existing system of irrigation and for resuscitating the dying and dacadent rivers of Bengal, for on this depends the wealth and prosperity of the province. Look at the Punjab and Sind—the Punjab particularly where much has been done in improving the system of irrigation and harnessing the power of river, and other methods of constructing dams which have considerably improved the agricultural output there.

Sir, since the introduction of Provincial autonomy in the provinces successive Finance Ministers have given out that Bengal's deplorable financial position stood in their way to make provision for proper irrigation facilities for which they made the Centre responsible and the Irrigation Ministers in their turn put up before us the same excuse. But before shifting the responsibility on the Centre we should first set our house in order and rectify our own shortcomings. It is unfortunate that at a time when we should be united and try to do good to the province we are just bickering amongst ourselves forgetting the higher issues. As long as we have this struggle for power in our politics I am afraid no good can come from any direction and no wonder the Centre views our schemes with suspicion. I am sorry, Sir, for having made these remarks but I thought I would take this opportunity to do so.

Sir, may I appeal to Government to take up the question of irrigation and in all seriousness. Otherwise in years to come, Bengal will fail to regain her lost prosperity.

Sir, coming to the question of regional and scientific planning of irrigation within the province the progress has been practically nil, save in the case of the Damodar, where after the last floods a Committee was set up and certain suggestion made and although experts have gone into and

vetted the scheme nothing tangible seems to have been done as yet. The money that has been spent in strengthening the left embankment and earth work done there came to, I believe, Rs. 3 crores and one could easily have built one dam if not two dams with that money. We have got substantial help in our present Budget from the Centre for strengthening the left embankment of the Damodar which threatens other interests of central responsibility more than the agricultural prosperity of the province.

The absence of any provision for taking up flood preventive work on the right embankment of the Damodar naturally raises the suspicion that the interests of agricultural unliftment of the province is not uppermost in the minds of the present Government. As one who had the privilege to be associated with the expert committee for the Damodar I do not find any reason as to why the measures proposed for the right bank could not be taken up. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to enlighten us what has stood in the way and when we may expect the work to begin on the right embankment, if ever. I would request him also to make public the report of the Damodar Enquiry Committee which of course after some trouble was circulated amongst us who had something to do with the Committee. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will take necessary action for the Ajay floods. I am glad he has provided some money at least for the clearance of the Banka but may I remind him that the clearance of silt on the Eden Canal at the sand covered area near Amirpur breach is equally important. I would also like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the vast area of land lying covered with sand after the last Damodar floods near the Amirpur breach. I hope something will be done to make those lands fertile and fit for cultivation. Sir, the setting up of a River Commission on a regional basis to deal with the major rivers like the Brahmaputra and the Meghna is no doubt a work in the right direction and similar commission is no doubt necessary for the Ganges also. But when we have got definite plans for the Damodar it is all the more necessary that this work should be taken up in right earnest immediately instead of tinkering about with so many schemes all at once, the ultimate result of which is obvious. It is deplorable that in spite of an assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister last year the River Research Institute has not been expanded as yet and as Dr. Sanyal has in detail spoken about the work being done by this Institute I do not propose to repeat it.

The last suggestion, Sir, I would dike to place before I resume my seat is to request Government to send suitable men from this province for expert training to foreign countries or America like the Punjab is doing so that in the future we may have our own men trained up as experts in scientific irrigation work and hydro-electric work instead of having to get foreign experts every time which not only means extra cost for the Government but which does not always yield very satisfactory results.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. PUSPAJIT BARMA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the head "XVII, etc.—Irrigation", etc., be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about failure of the Government to provide North Bengal with adequate irrigation facilities.

Sir, North Bengal has practically been neglected by the favoured look of this department of the Government. Irrigation, emankment, drainage works and flushing schemes are unknown in North Bengal. Sir, agriculture of this province and specially in upper North Bengal entirely depends on monsoon. And as human being has no hand whatsoever over it, the agriculturists look helplessly for it for their cultivation. Sir, the districts of North Bengal generally suffer from excessive rainfall or excessive draught

as they are situated in higher level with sandy soil than the other districts of the Province. The districts of upper North Bengal generally suffer from want of sufficient rainfall and flood is generally unknown to the people while the lower North Bengal generally suffer from flood due to excessive rainfall. Now what is good for upper part is bad for lower part of North Bengal. This contradictory and diversity of situation can only be controlled by irrigation works.

Sir, "Grow More Food" Campaign, which is in the version of the Hon'ble Finance Minister the "second leg" of the Government's policy to prevent any recurrence of the last calamitious famine and which also is considered as indispensable under the present emergency and the future, if Bengal is to continue as a "contented base" is closely and inseparably connected with the irrigation work.

Sir, the "Grow More Food" Campaign has practically met with failure in upper North Bengal districts where Government could not provide with irrigation facilities. The "second leg" of the Government's policy has proved to be an artificial wooden annexure instead of a "real leg", an actual part of the body with free movement. It has really proved to be a temporary patch work of purely demonstrating and white-washing nature. Sir, this campaign will never meet with success unless the productivity of the land under cultivation is improved. This campaign cannot be successful until and unless the Government bring cultivable waste and fallow lands under plough by irrigation, embankments, drainage works and flushing schemes. Sir, 23 lakhs of rupees has been allotted in the Budget for agricultural statistics and for ascertaining the acreage of cultivable fallow and waste lands and to bring them under cultivation by "Bengal Food Production Control Order".

Sir, it is no doubt that the idea is really good but the question is whether the Ministers have any sincerity in their purpose in this direction.

Sir, how can the Government enforce the "Bengal Food Production Control Order" unless and until they bring those unproductive lands under cultivation by irrigation works

Sir, in upper North Bengal districts particularly in the district of Rangpur there are immense facilities and scopes for extensive irrigation embankments, drainage works and flushing schemes as there are large acreage of unproductive high and low lands; there are a number of dead and dying rivers and also there are living rivers passing through the different parts of this district. It is surprising that the Department has stopped the work of a few irrigation schemes that had been undertaken last year in the district of Rangpur.

Sir, again the amount estimated for the establishment of the Rehabilitation Programme is double than that of the last year. But I am afraid to say that we see no work of this programme in my district. The Nilphamari subdivision of Rangpur district was one of the worst sufferers in the last calamitious famine but we find no scheme of the Rehabilitation Programme in that area. Sir, I shall now come to contour survey. We have become sick of hearing about "North Bengal Contour Survey" for which 11½ lakhs of rupees have been allotted. This year's grant for contour survey is a large one but the amount whether it is large or small, cannot satisfy the people unless it is sincerely and properly utilised. We want extensive irrigation works in North Bengal. Sir, Irrigation Budget has been increasing every year but the irrigation problem of North Bengal remains the same as it was before 1935 constitution.

Sir, it is high time for the Government to take up earnestly irrigation works in North Bengal. Further, failure to provide North Bengal with extensive irrigation facilities would increase discontentment amongst the people and prove the insincerity of the Ministers and hollowness of the administration of the Province.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the demand of Rs. 1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the head "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to resuscitate the rivers of the district of Hooghly and of the province at large.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it goes without saying how much important are all these rivers so far as this province is concerned. It is quite well-known that this province of ours and, not to speak of this province alone, practically the whole of India is mainly an agricultural country and it goes without saying how much value is to be attributed to these rivers. Now, Sir, what we have seen is that since the very advent of British rule in India, these rivers have been totally—I should not say practically—ignored and in the last Bengal Council and also since the very initiation of the Act of 1935 times without number attention has been drawn to this department of Government in this Legislature, but to no effect. I should subscribe to the views that have been expressed by Dr. Sanyal and also Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu.

Sir, I want to state that with the resuscitation of rivers in this province very important three-fold objects will be served, viz., fertility of the soil will be improved to a very considerable extent, lands will be made cultivable and crops will be made to grow to a very large extent. Consequent on the resuscitation of rivers, there will be improvement in the health of the people to a very large extent. Malaria, cholera, small-pox and several other diseases which break out in an epidemic form will be eradicated from this province if the rivers are made to flow in the natural way. Then another most important result will be that the rivers will be made navigable and with it the communication within the country will be improved to a very large extent and as a result of that improvement, there will be industrial development and the country will be rendered more industrial. Large and small scale industries will grow up in the countryside and with it the prosperity and wealth of the people will grow. Sir, I do not want to dilate upon these things because these are well-known to the members and to the Hon'ble Minister also.

Sir, I want to draw the pointed attention of the Government to one most important thing, viz., every year in the district of Hooghly there is a visitation of flood. Every year this district—specially the area of Arambagh subdivision—is flooded. Sir, I should mention some facts in that connection. In spite of our writing repeatedly to the Government for helping the affected people, we could not get any help from the Government in order to eradicate the grievances and sufferings of the people of the Arambagh subdivision who were affected by flood. Now, in the thanas of Arambagh and Khanakul in the subdivision of Arambagh, people have been put to enormous difficulties and there has been enormous loss in lives and properties due to flood last year. Every year this area is visited with flood and enormous loss in lives and properties is entailed. Sir, we drew the attention of Government last year perhaps in the month of September, 1944. We wrote letters so that help might be had from the Government, but to our utter misfortune we could not get any help from the Government. Now, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that when we could not get any help from them, we ourselves raised funds to the amount of Rs. 22,000 by which we have been able to make thousands and thousands of bighas of land cultivable by petty irrigation schemes, and thereby remove the unfertility of the soil over there. Still now we are distributing medicines in those affected areas. We want that all these petty schemes so far as irrigation is concerned should be taken up by Government in the district of Hooghly, so that the people of that district, and mainly of the Arambagh subdivision should not suffer any longer in this way by the visitation of floods.

With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the uselessness of maintenance of embankment in the rivers Selyee, Dwarakeswar and Damodar and Cossye the existence of which causes flood and the failure of Government to prevent havoc by flood devastating a large area of the subdivision of Ghatal in the district of Midnapore.

Sir, বাংলা দেশের যে সমস্ত অঞ্চল প্রতি বৎসর বন্যাতে ডুবে যায় গ্রামবাসীর ঘর তার গরু বাছুর ভাসিয়ে নিয়ে যায় এবং আবাদী ক্ষেতের শস্যসমূহ পচিয়ে ধ্বংস করে দেয়, সেই সমস্ত অঞ্চলকে রক্ষা করবার জন্য বাংলা Government এর Irrigation বিভাগের যেসব বিশেষজ্ঞগণ এত দিন ধরে যে embankment system অবলম্বন করে আসছেন তাতে সে সকল অঞ্চলের কোন উপকার ত হয়নি বরং অধিকন্তু তাদের বিপদ বেড়ে উঠেছে। মেদিনীপুর জেলার অন্তর্গত ঘাটাল subdivision এর যে অঞ্চলটা প্রত্যেক বৎসর বন্যায় ডুবে যায় সেটা প্রায় ৪০ স্কোয়ার মাইল। এই স্থানকে রক্ষা করবার জন্য Government নদীর ধারে ধারে যে সকল embankment করেছেন, প্রত্যেক বৎসর তাহা ভেঙ্গে গিয়ে লোকের গুরুতর ক্ষতি করে এবং প্রত্যেক বৎসরই সেই সমস্ত মেরামত করবার জন্য লাখ লাখ টাকা খরচ করা হয়। মেরামত হবার পরেতে সেই বাঁধ এক ফুট-দেড় ফুট উঁচু করে দেওয়া হয়। বাঁধ যেমনি উঁচু করা হয় বন্যার জলও তেমনি প্রতি বৎসর উঁচু হতে থাকে ফলে বন্যা যখন আসে উঁচু বাঁধকে ভেঙ্গে জলরাশি বেগে আসতে থাকে। গ্রামের সমস্ত লোকের ঘর বাড়ী সমস্ত ডুবে যায় তার উপর আট ফুট-দশ ফুট উঁচু হয়ে জল উঠে। এতে লোকের ভীষণ অসুবিধা হয়, ধান চাল ত হয়ই না। ফসলের অভাবে দুর্ভিক্ষ এখানে প্রায়ই দেখা যায়। নিকটবর্তী, গত test relief এর সময় হুগলী জেলার অন্তর্গত আরামবাগ subdivision এ যে একপ্রস্থ রাস্তা হয়েছিল দামোদরের দক্ষিণ দুই তীরবর্তী বাঁধ না থাকার জন্য বোধ হয় গত বৎসরের বন্যার চাপ পড়ায় হয়ে সেই সমস্ত নূতন রাস্তা ভেঙ্গে চুরমার হয়ে গিয়েছে। এই ভাবে প্রত্যেক বৎসর যতই নদীর বাঁধ বাঁধবার চেষ্টা হতেছে ততই বন্যার প্রকোপ ক্রমে বেড়ে উঠছে। গতবারে budget discussion এর সময় বলেছিলাম যে চেতুয়া circuit বলে একটা circuit আছে। সেখানটা প্রত্যেক বৎসর উঁচু করে মেরামত করা হয় কিন্তু কোন বারেই সে বাঁধ রক্ষা হয় না, ভেঙ্গে যায়। আমি বলেছিলাম যে এ circuit এর মাঝামাঝি যে একটা চন্দ্রেশ্বর নামক খাল আছে, বহুদিন ধরে সেটা মজে গিয়েছে। সেটা যদি কেটে দেওয়া হয় তাহলে ঐ অঞ্চলের বন্যার চাপ কিছু কম হয়ে যেতে পারে। কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত সেই সম্পর্কে কিছু হয়েছে বলে আমার মনে হয় না। এ সকল বাঁধ যদি রাখবার চেষ্টা করা হয় তাহলে এই যে বন্যার হাত থেকে লোককে রক্ষা করবার জন্য বৃথা Government এত টাকা খরচ করছেন এটা বাস্তবিক বৃথা হচ্ছে। এইজন্য মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কাছে আমার নিবেদন যে যদি ঐ সকল অঞ্চলের বাঁধ ভেঙ্গে জমি সমতল করে দেওয়া হয় তাহলে সেখানে নদীর জল সমস্ত সমানভাবে মাঠের উপর দিয়ে চলে যাবে, বেশীদিন ধরে আটফুট, দশ ফুট উঁচু হয়ে থাকবে না, একদিন কি দেড় দিন থেকে চলে যাবে, জমীর উর্বরতা বাড়বে এবং সেই সঙ্গে সঙ্গে অনেক জমির চাষবাস ইত্যাদি বেড়ে গ্রামবাসীর বিশেষ উপকার করবে। যে সমস্ত নদী মজে যাচ্ছে সেই সমস্ত নদীরও বর্তমানে সংস্কারের অভাব। এই জন্য আমার বিশেষ বক্তব্য এই যে যদি অন্ততঃ নদীর বাঁধগুলি এই রকমে মাঠের level করে দেওয়া হয় অথবা চন্দ্রেশ্বর খালটি কেটে দেওয়া হয় তাহলে ঐ অঞ্চলের ৪০ স্কোয়ার মাইল লোকের বন্যার জন্য যেভাবে কষ্ট হচ্ছে সেটা বোধ হয় চলে যেতে পারে। আমি এই কয়েকটি কথা নিবেদন করে আমার cut motion move করছি।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Maqbul Hossain is absent and is down with fever. Will you allow me to move the motion standing in his name?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government in not making any provision for preventing the flood of Gumti river in the district of Tippera due to the breaches in the embankment or due to want of embankment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, each district has got its own problems so far as irrigation schemes are concerned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my friend Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal has referred to the insistent demand that has been made by us with regard to the flood that is caused by the breaches in the Gumti embankment. The demands have been made times without number but it has produced no result. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, each district has got its own problem so far as irrigation schemes are concerned. The district of Tippera, you are aware, is bounded in the east by the Tripura hills and in the west by the river Bagai. From the Tripura hills a large number of hill-streams fall into the main water channel of the district. You know the main water channel of the district is river Meghna, and from that river Meghna some other rivulets have arisen and after taking their meandering course have fallen to the main channel. The hill streams and rivulets that have come out from the Tripura hill and have fallen in the main channel have, on account of erosion, accumulated silt and, therefore, their beds have dried up and consequently disastrous results have arisen. So far as the Gumti embankment is concerned, the question has been hanging for the last 100 years. It is a century old question. Many experts have sat, many committees have been constituted for the purpose of taking up the problems, and subsequently it was unanimously decided that the embankment should be done away with in order to prevent floods due to the breaches in the embankment. That was done in the year 1913 when experts and members of the House sat together and came to a unanimous decision, but, Sir, you will be astonished to learn that really the embankments have not been done away with. On the contrary due to war conditions embankments have been heightened—they have been widened——

As a result of that you are aware that there have been erosions in some places and, as Mr. Maqbul Hossain has said, breaches are bound to occur and consequent floods are bound to take place. But if embankments on both sides are abolished floods will disappear but that has not been done. I want an explanation from the Hon'ble Minister in charge why instead of abolishing the embankments they have been widened and broadened. Then, Sir, as I have told you, on account of the hilly and silt-laden nature of the streamlets many rivers have dried up, and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Irrigation is aware that there is a scheme for re-excavating the river Titus which should have been put into execution by this time. But now I hear that it has been abandoned. Sir, I want an explanation why this scheme has been abandoned.

Then, Sir, there is a river in Tippera which goes by the name of Dakatia which flows through the districts of Tippera and Noakhali and falls into the Meghna. The mouth of the river has silted up on account of the erosion and silt-laden nature of this hill streamlet and as a result there have been floods in some portions of Noakhali specially Raipur thana, which has become an annual visitation.

Another matter that I want to bring to the notice of the House through you, Sir, and to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Irrigation is this that in the past the people felt no necessity for irrigation khals so far as Eastern Bengal districts are concerned. In Eastern Bengal districts there is plenty of water in the rainy season but now water dries up in certain areas where Boro crop used to be grown. But now they cannot be grown in the months of Paus, Magh, Falgun and Chaitra and in those areas the irrigation khal is an absolute necessity. In my district, in the subdivision of Brahmanbaria there are large areas which remain uncultivated for a large number of years because of the জার্মান কেনা which came during the years of 1914-20 and since the appearance of water hyacinth this part of the district of Tippera has remained fallow and the only crop that can be grown there is the *boro* crop. But it cannot be grown because there is water in the months of Paus, Magh, Falgun and Chaitra and for this part the irrigation scheme is an absolute necessity. Therefore, Sir, it cannot be said that

irrigation is not a necessity in Eastern Bengal. So far as this question of irrigation is concerned it was absolutely not a necessity in the past for Eastern Bengal districts but now it is a real necessity. The Waterways Act was passed long ago and it was within the contemplation of Government to constitute a Waterways Board and by constituting the Waterways Board it was contemplated to levy some rates upon boatmen and steamer companies and with the money that would be raised it was contemplated that the navigable rivers would be resuscitated. That was the contemplation of the Act itself and it was passed, I understand, in the year 1935 but it has for these long ten years remained inoperative. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister why it has not been put into operation so long and why it has remained inoperative. I hear it has remained inoperative because of the interference of the steamer companies which are owned by European concerns.

Then, Sir, there is a very important point raised by a motion that was sought to be moved with regard to the inter-provincial River Commission. It is absolutely a necessity. You are aware that the Ganges runs through the provinces of the United Provinces, Bihar and then through Bengal. So also the Brahmaputra passes through Assam and then flows through Bengal. So an inter-provincial River Commission is an absolute necessity. But I do not know what steps the Government have taken in that direction and whether Government proposes to take any step in that direction even now. It is of very great importance so far as the province of Bengal is concerned to control the flow of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra through the various provinces by an inter-provincial River Commission

With these words, Sir, I beg to commend the motion that stands in the name of Mr. Maqbul Hossain for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs 1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" etc, be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the negligence and apathy of the Government to re-excavate the river main Brahmaputra and the new Brahmaputra known as Jumna and the branch thereof known as Charabari river in the subdivision of Tangail.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, এইমাত্র আমার বন্ধু ধীরেন্দ্রনাথ দত্ত ব্রহ্মপুত্রের কথা বলে শেষ করলেন। ব্রহ্মপুত্র একটা inter-provincial river যার দ্বারা কলকাতা থেকে ডিব্রুগড় অবধি জাহাজ চলাচল করে এবং বাণিজ্য এবং পূর্ববঙ্গের ও উত্তর বঙ্গের কতকগুলি জেলার স্বাস্থ্য সংরক্ষিত হয়। এই ব্রহ্মপুত্র বহুকাল ধরে ক্রমে ভরে উঠেছে। এটা Government এর কাছে বহুবার করে cut motion দিয়ে তাদের presence এ আনা হয়েছে। তার ফলে পুরাণো ব্রহ্মপুত্র যমুনা নাকি বৈমনসিং এর নীচে দিয়ে প্রবাহিত ছিল তার জন্য একটা department করে একটা আপিস খোলা হয়েছিল বৈমনসিং এ, ২৪ হাজার না বিশ হাজার টাকা খরচ দিয়ে, শুধু দেখবার জন্য। তার দ্বারা কোন কাজ হয়নি এবং বৈমনসিং সহরের স্বাস্থ্য ক্রমশঃ খারাপ হয়ে যাচ্ছে। টাঙ্গাইলের সেখানকার সাধারণ অসুখ, আর ম্যালেরিয়ার ত কথাই নাই। তারপরে টাঙ্গাইল subdivision এর মত একটা subdivision তার কোন রাস্তা ঘাট নাই, কোন রেলপথ নেই, শুধু এই নদীর পথ ছিল। সেটা চারাবাড়ীর নদী শুকিয়ে যাওয়ার জন্য বছরে ৬ মাস steamer চলতে পারে না, এবং লোকের যাতায়াত সম্বন্ধে ভয়ানক অসুবিধা হয়েছে। সেটা বারবার Government এর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করেও আমরা ফল পাইনি। এবারেও সেই পয়লা জানুয়ারী থেকে আরম্ভ করে steamer line বন্ধ আছে। টাঙ্গাইল subdivision থেকে প্রায় ১৪ কি ১৫ মাইল দূরে এক steamer station আছে; সেখানে রাত্রে ১০টার সময় steamer যায় এবং ভোর চারটেয় ছাড়ে। সেখানে এই নদীগুলিকে যদি সংস্কার না করা হয় তার ফল হবে এই যে ঠিক বর্ষা আসা মাত্রই সমস্ত জল ভিতরে চলে যায় এবং জমিগুলি সব ডুবিয়ে দ্যায়। অকালে বর্ষা হয়ে সমস্ত জমি নষ্ট হয়ে যায়। তাই আমি আমার cut motion দিয়ে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি যে ব্রহ্মপুত্রের দিকে একবার দৃষ্টিপাত করুন এবং চারাবাড়ীর পথ সুগম করে দিয়ে ঐ মহকুমার যাতায়াতের পথের সুবিধা করে দিন।

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Sir, I want to speak generally on the demand that has been moved by the Hon'ble Minister.

As has been pointed out by my friend, Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta, Government was so long under the impression that Eastern Bengal did not require any irrigation. You will find that during the pre-Reform days no expenditure was incurred for Eastern Bengal on irrigation projects, as were undertaken in Western Bengal. After the Reforms were introduced Eastern Bengal suffered severely from want of irrigation projects.

Now, so far as my own district of Mymensingh is concerned, it reprensents 1/5th of Bengal having a population of 60 lakhs. Government set up an Irrigation Division in Mymensingh for the river Brahmaputra which runs through Mymensingh and the Department was started during the first Ministry of Mr. Fazlul Huq and that division has been there for 5 or 6 years; but nothing has yet been done for the resuscitation of the dying and decadent river, Brahmaputra. Sir, there was no malaria, kala-azar and other epidemics in the district of Mymensingh so long as the river Brahmaputra was quite in order.

I would name another river, Narsunda, in the subdivision of Kishoreganj. That river runs from the headquarters of the Kishoreganj subdivision to Karimganj and this river for the last hundred years had been the connecting link of trading centre between Mymensingh and Dacca, but unfortunately this river has been silted up. In the year 1934-35 with the aid of voluntary labour this river was re-excavated, but because voluntary work could not alone do the re-excavation work properly we urged on the Government to see that the re-excavation of the Narsunda river be taken up by the Irrigation Department, but I do not know why the scheme has been dropped. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to see that the Narsunda river be re-excavated, because it will not only be useful for purposes of sanitation, irrigation, but also for the "Grow More Food" campaign.

Another thing which I would mention here is the Singna re-excavation scheme which I have been pressing for the last 8 years That is a scheme which, if properly tackled and re-excavated, will yield more than 1 lakh maunds to the cultivators of that area, because there is a large area of beel land on which no paddy, particularly boro and aman, can be grown as water cannot be removed from that area. I hope Government will take up that scheme.

There is another river named Mrigi in the Jamalpur subdivision which is a most important one and if this river is re-excavated it will have irrigation and navigation facilities.

I would speak of another river named Lohajang river in the Tangail subdivision. If that river is re-excavated it will yield very good results so far as sanitation, irrigation and "Grow More Food" campaign are concerned and will also improve communication.

Sir, Tangail and Kishoreganj are now the two deficit subdivisions in the district of Mymensingh and if minor irrigation projects are taken up—which will not involve crores of rupees, but a few lakhs only—in these two deficit subdivisions, they will, in future, become surplus subdivisions and Government will not have to bring paddy and other foodgrains from other parts of Bengal to these places.

So far as minor irrigation projects and rehabilitation schemes are concerned, I do not know how far they have been taken up in Eastern Bengal and particularly in the district of Mymensingh. I would in this connection urge upon the Government to drain the river Brahmaputra. If that river is drained and re-excavated the "Grow More Food" campaign and other problems of Mymensingh will be solved once for all. I hope, now that the Department has been furnished with necessary staff, so far as the Mymensingh district is concerned, the Hon'ble Minister will find no difficulty in getting the river Brahmaputra re-excavated.

Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA: Sir, the history of steady deterioration of the irrigation and the waterways system of the province is the history of foreign vandalism. It is the history of material damage caused by the relentless exploitation by the foreigners. These people have only been interested in the return on their investment in Railways and inland navigation companies. They have been quite unmindful of the wellbeing of the people.

We have here a classical example of a race of strangers completely laying waste a vast country unmindful of the tragedy it brought to millions of homes. Sir, this province was at one time blessed with a remarkable network of waterways which could carry the bulk of the province's trade-loads and bring life-giving water and fertility to the fields.

Two very powerful forces had conspired to ruin the waterways system. The first are the Railway companies and the second are the inland river navigation companies owned by British Stock-holders, until the Railways were made over to the Government of India. These monster organisations looked only for profits. They did not care in the least about the havoc they were working on the agricultural, economic and social life of Bengal. It is not necessary to go into great details, but it is common knowledge that the Railways and inland river navigation companies have brought untold suffering to the people of Bengal. Floods, malaria, soil-erosion—all these are directly traced to them.

The other contributory factor, I have to mention in this connection is the callous indifference, the lack of plan and foresight of the Government Departments which are supposed to be responsible for the irrigation, communication and agriculture of the province. The history of these departments is one of muddle-headedness, of lack of any co-ordinated plan and of complete ignorance of the problems involved. In this matter the Government of India and the Government of the province are equally guilty. To give one instance, there was a time, not so late in history when the whole of the Damodar valley was one of the most prosperous regions of Bengal. The people in the valley had their own ways of guarding against floods and irrigating their fields.

The vandalism of a Railway Company has turned this valley into one of the worst malarious regions of the province and a region constantly threatened with floods. It is time that this vandalism must stop

Sir, it will not do to put the embankment higher up here and to patch up a breach there. That will only aggravate the harm already done.

It is necessary to devise and carry through a comprehensive plan for the training of the rivers of Bengal. This involves a comprehensive regional planning including such matters as scientific flood control, afforestation and planned agriculture dredging, and maintenance of riverways, conservation, harnessing and utilisation of the water resources for production of electric power for industries. This involves not one plan, but many plans—one for each region of the province and all regional plans to be co-ordinated into a larger single plan for maintenance of the riverways, irrigation and the widest electrification of the province.

The Tennessee Valley Administration in America is a lesson in regional planning. Perhaps the Hon'ble Minister will care to look into reports of the Tennessee Valley Administration for inspiration. On smaller and limited scales, such projects have been carried out in other provinces of India, notably in the Mysore State. Sir, we have now in India a number of scientists who have recently returned from their visit of America and I have no doubt they will be willing to give us the benefit of their experience and advice in this connection.

Sir, I dare say the House will agree with me, that the Railways and inland navigation companies, being largely responsible for the ruination

of the irrigation and agriculture of the province, must be made to contribute the major share of the cost of the geographic and economic reconstruction of the province.

Sir, I am speaking here today, because I feel that we cannot delay a comprehensive plan of reconstruction any longer; because, in my view, any slipshod way of tackling the problem of irrigation can only lead to further and worse disasters than those which overtook the province in recent years.

Sir, although I have referred primarily to the Damodar and Brahmaputra Valleys my remarks apply to other river basins in the province.

Of course, in this matter the conflicting interests of different provinces have to be considered. But the difficulty is not insoluble.

In America, the Tennessee Valley Administration has been made a completely autonomous body, free from influence of party politics. The same principle should be made to apply here.

Sir, what we want is a vision, a grasp of the reality, an understanding of the urgency of the situation and finally the will to carry through a comprehensive plan of reconstruction.

Mr. MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, আজকে Irrigationএর ব্যয় বরাদ্দের খাতে এক কোটি ৩১ লক্ষ ৩১ হাজার টাকা দাবী মঞ্জুরের জন্য মাননীয় বরোদা প্রসন্ন পাইন মহোদয় আমাদের সামনে দাবী পেশ করেছেন। এ সম্বন্ধে আমার কয়েকটি কথা বলবার আছে। যুদ্ধের দরুণ আপনারা জানেন আমাদের সকলকারই অভাব হয়ে গিয়েছে; চাউলের অভাব, দাইলের অভাব, নুনের অভাব, কাপড়ের অভাব। (A Voice: টাকার অভাব) টাকার অভাব নাই। (Laughter) টাকাটা inflation হয়ে খুব বেড়ে গিয়েছে। টাকার অভাব নাই বন্ধুগণ, টাকার অভাব নাই। আর সকলেরই অভাব। এখন আমাদের অভাব পুরণের জন্য Government, grow more food compaign অথবা অধিক খাদ্যশস্য ফলাও আন্দোলন আরম্ভ করেছেন। তা করতে হবে, জলের দরকার হয়। যেখানে যেখানে খাল মজে গিয়েছে নদী ভরে গিয়েছে সেই সকলকে আবার পুনরায় খনন করে যাতে সেই জল দিয়ে খাদ্যশস্য উৎপন্নের সুবিধা হয় তার জন্য ব্যবস্থা করতে হয়। এই policy করার দরুণ আমরা এই ব্যয় বরাদ্দ সমর্থন করি। আজকে আপনারা দেখুন যে এখানে এক কোটি ৩১ লক্ষ টাকা এই খাল নদী খননের জন্য ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে এবং আমরা তা মঞ্জুর ও করবো। এর উদ্দেশ্য যে খাল নদীগুলি ভাল রকম খনন করা হউক। আমার একটা ব্যক্তিগত অভিজ্ঞতার কথা এখানে বলবো। ভোলা একটা Subdivision. তার একটা খাল আছে। সেই খালটা মজে গিয়েছে। মজে যাওয়ার দরুণ আমরা District Board থেকে তা খনন করার জন্য Governmentকে অনুরোধ করি। এক কোটি ৩৫ লক্ষ টাকা Government থেকে মঞ্জুর করে খাল খনন করা হচ্চে। (A voice: তার contract কে নিয়েছে?) Contract আপনাদের জন্য, মৈমনসিংহের লোকদের জন্য contract. তারপরে সেই খাল খনন করা সম্বন্ধে আমরা আজ দেখছি যে আমরা এক কোটি ৩৫ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করে খালটা খনন করা হচ্চে কিন্তু তাতে নৌকা চলাচলের সুবিধা হবে না এবং খাদ্যশস্য ও ভাল হবে না। এখন দেখি যে ভোলাতে সকলের আপত্তি, ভোলার সমস্ত জনসাধারণের আপত্তি যে এত টাকা খাল খননের জন্য কেন দেওয়া হোলো। আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে এক telegram করেছি যে এই খাল খনন হচ্চে কিন্তু তাতে সুবিধা হচ্চে না। ভোলাতে নৌকা চলাচল করতে পারবে না এবং সেখানে ফসলেরও সুবিধা হবে না, যা আমরা দেখছি। তা তিনি কি ব্যবস্থা করেছেন জানি না। তার পরে আমরা তাঁর কাছে deputationএ গিয়েছি। সেখানে তাঁর superintending engineer দেখিয়ে দিলেন যে levelএ খাল খনন করা হচ্চে এর বেশী আর খনন করা যাবে না, তা নৌকা চলুক বা না চলুক, জল থাক্ বা না থাক; আমাদের expert opinion; এই lineএ, এই অনুসারে কাজ হবে। তার হিসাব শুনুন, যতটুকু শুনেছি। সাত জন contractor সেই খালটা পেয়েছে তাদের ভাগে ১৯,৩০০৲ টাকা করে পড়েছে। এক জায়গা থেকে আমি reliable sourceএ খবর পেলাম, খালের যখন একটা section, অর্থাৎ অর্দ্ধেক কাটা হয়ে গিয়েছে তাতে যে সকল লোক খেটেছে তার contractor বলেছে আমি ২ হাজার টাকার labour করেছি। তাতে অর্দ্ধেক হয়ে গিয়েছে। আর বাকি অর্দ্ধেক বোধ হয় আর ২ হাজারে হয়ে যাবে। তাহলে ১৯ হাজারের ভিতর চার হাজার টাকা যদি খননে গেল তাহলে আপনারা বোধ বিয়োগ হিসাব করে দেখুন কত হাজার টাকা বাহাল তবিয়তে, contractor নিয়ে চলেছে।

আর তার ভাগ যে উপরিতন কর্ম্মচারিগণ না পাবেন তা' আমি মনে করি না। (A voice: নিশ্চয় পাবেন।) (noise and shouting) আরে শুনুন একটু বলছি উৎপাৎ করছেন কেন? আপনাদের সুবিধাই ত হচ্ছে। (cries of 'বলুন', বলুন') গোলমাল করা অভ্যাস যাদের তাঁরা খালি গোলমাল করেন। আপনারা উঠলে আমরা ত গোলমাল করি না, বন্ধুগণ। শুনুন। তারপরে একটা গল্প মনে এসেছে; সে Irrigation departmentএর নয়, P. W. D.র। Districtএর একটা townএ রাস্তার উপর একটা খেজুর গাছ পড়েছে। হকুম হলো contractorকে এ গাছটা তুলে দাও। সে খেজুর গাছ তুলে দিয়ে Bill করলে তিন টাকা। এখন Overseerএর কাছে গেল সে তিনের সামনে একটি শূন্য বসিয়ে দিলে, হ'লো ৩০। তারপরে আবার উপরের কর্ম্মচারীর কাছে যখন গেল তিনি আর একটা শূন্য বসিয়ে দিলেন, তিন টা তিন শো হয়ে গেল। শুনুন এইভাবে P. W. D. বিভাগে সেই contractor কাজ শেষ করে, তিনশো টাকার half & half অর্থাৎ ১৫০৲ টাকা নিয়ে যায়। নিয়ে contractor চলে গেলেন, তিন টাকা তিনশো টাকা হয়ে গেল। এই Ministryকে যে গালি দেবেন, ঘটনা এখনকার নয়; পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী Govenrmentএর কথা বলছি। সেটা P. W. D. P. W. D. সঙ্গে Irrigationএর ল্যাজ ও জোড়া আছে। সেজন্য এই Departmentএ এই রকম কাণ্ড কারখানা হয় বলেই আমার বিশ্বাস Irrigationএও এই রকম হচ্ছে। আমার ধারণা এখানে গোলমাল আছে। আমি on the floor of the House Minister মহাশয়কে বলছি, তিনি enquiry করুন, করে দেখুন এর ভেতর বাস্তবিক যদি কোন গোলমাল থাকে সেটা কখনও ক্ষমা করা হবে না। ('Hear, hear') সবখানেই এ রকম গোলমাল হতে পারে। আমি বলছি যদিও Governmentকে support করি কিন্তু অন্যায়কে কখনও support করবো না। ('Hear, hear')। শুনন, সেইজন্য আমার অনুরোধ যে Minister মহাশয় একটা enquiry করুন। Test হোক ভোলাটা, দেখা যাক্ এটা কি রকম। আমরা যখন আপত্তি করেছি, telegram করেছি, deputationএ গিয়েছি, তাঁরা একটা enquiry করে পরিষ্কার করে দিন না। যদি বাহাল তবিয়তে আসতে পারেন ভাল কথা, আমরাও সন্তুষ্ট হই। Enquiry করে এটা পরিষ্কার করে দিন। নয় ত আমরা কোটি কোটি টাকা মঞ্জুর করবো, আর budget পাশ করবো, কিন্তু কাজের বেলায় কোন কাজ হবে না, কাজের বেলায় দেখবো হিসাবে পড়ে না। এটা সমর্থন করবার জন্য আমরা রাজি নয়। শুনুন ভাল কথা বলছি। আর এই সম্পর্কে আমি আর একটা কথা বলছি এটা আমি সেদিন educationএর Party meetingএ বলেছিলাম। Budgetএ পূর্ব্বে ৩৭ লক্ষ পাশ করেছিলাম Education, এবার ২ কোটি ..... লক্ষ ২৫ হাজার পাশ করেছি, সেটা পাশ হয়ে গিয়েছে। কিন্তু সেই টাকাটা যাতে really খরচ হয় তার ব্যবস্থা Governmentএর করতে হবে। যদি Government না করেন তাহলে আমরা এই Governmentকে ভেঙ্গে দিব। ('Hear, hear' from the opposition) আমরা মানুষ পূজা করি না, আমরা কাজের পূজা করি। আপনাদের মতন কাজ করলেও ভাঙ্গবো না করলেও ভাঙ্গবো তা নয়। আমরা চাইছি যে যে কাজ না করলে ভাঙ্গবো। এই হচ্ছে আমাদের কথা আপনারা বলেন ministry support করি; অপরাধ করেছি ministry support করে। কতটুকু বুদ্ধি আপনাদের আছে, কতটুকু কাজ করতে পারেন, তা ১৬ মাস trial দিয়ে দেখেছি। (Here the member reached his time limit and resumed his seat.)

Mr. SHAH SAYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI: Sir, আমি আপনার সহানুভূতি প্রার্থনা করছি, আমার Irrigationএর budgetএ বলবার আছে। আমি আমার constituency'র হাজার হাজার লোকের পক্ষ থেকে দাঁড়িয়ে ২ মিনিট সময় চাচ্ছি।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: আপনাকে পরে chance আমি দেবো।

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, I was saying that Dr. Sanyal sprang an agreeable surprise by making a somewhat graceful acknowledgment of the good work which, he said, the department has been doing——

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI: Sir, on a point of information আমি Irrigation Departmentএর ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কাছে জানতে চাই যে ডাকাতিরা খাল কাটবার schemeএর কোন পরিকল্পনা Governmentএর কাছে প্রস্তুত আছে কিনা এবং যদি না থাকে, ডাকাতিরা খাল কাটবার ইচ্ছা বা উদ্দেশ্য Governmentএর আছে কি না। যদি না থাকে, কেন এবং যদি থাকে কবে কাজ আরম্ভ হবে সেটা জানতে চাই।

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, if the honourable member will do me the honour of seeing me in my office tomorrow, I shall be glad to discuss the matter with him and give him the necessary information.

Replying to Dr. Sanyal's cut motion, I have to tell him that arrangements have been made for strengthening the River Research Institute. We have sanctioned some extra staff, but due to war conditions it was not possible to make arrangements for housing them suitably or for sanctioning a laboratory for them. I am glad to be able to say that we have at last made a provision of a house for the River Research Institute and to equip it with a laboratory.

With regard to the Muir scheme on which Dr. Sanyal stressed, I have to tell him that this is a very big scheme indeed. The pre-war estimate was somewhere in the neighbourhood of three crores of rupeees. As Dr. Sanyal himself observed, schemes which had been examined years ago cannot be fully trusted. We are therefore having the scheme revised and I expect a report to come in the course of the next three or four months and I expect that the revised estimate will show an approximate expenditure of more than eight or nine crores. When that comes in, we shall apply ourselves to it as funds will permit. With regard to the Howrah-Hooghly Flushing scheme and the Darakeswar scheme which were mentioned by Dr. Sanyal, these are interconnected with the Damodar scheme and the three are being investigated by Mr. Man Singh, Superintending Engineer, on special duty. Dr. Sanyal has erred in thinking that the Government of India and the Government of Bengal have been carrying on separate and simultaneous examination. That is not so. At the conference held in January, this year between the representatives of the Government of India and of this province, we stressed the fact that Mr. Man Singh should be allowed to carry on the investigation and that for the extra investigation that would be required on account of the multi-purposes scheme, Mr. Man Singh would be assisted by a staff provided by the Central Government and the Government of Bihar. To this both the Governments agreed and that is how the work is proceeding. I am certain that Mr. Man Singh will be able to produce at no distant date, a comprehensive scheme for dealing with the Damodar, Darakeswar and the Hooghly-Howrah Flushing schemes combined. Dr. Sanyal has also mentioned a very useful point, namely, the question of sending young men abroad for training. Thanks to His Excellency the Governor, this matter is receiving special attention and I shall be able to say in the course of a fortnight that half a dozen young men have been selected from this province for the purpose of training abroad, some in the United Kingdom and some in Canada and other parts of America. It is very difficult to get officers in these days and still more difficult to release those who have been useful to the Department. I think it is risky to take this course, but we are taking the risk and at least half a dozen men will be sent abroad according to the Government of India scheme for training. Dr. Sanyal complained that the pump irrigation system has proved a failure. I am sorry I cannot share his opinion. At one place in Malda it has not been popular, because the situation of the pump did not find favour with the public. At Chuadanga, in Nadia, where I went personally, found that mischief-mongers were abroad and were making a propaganda that Government is forcing this water on the people, so that they might levy and collect heavy rates. I explained to the people that that was far from the mind of the Government and I am glad to be able to say that this pump is now working satisfactorily. We have under contemplation to instal these pumps at other places and I am certain that at the time of the introduction of the budget demand next year, a reference will be made to the good work which these pumps will be doing. Dr. Sanyal has erred when he said that Mr. Elmherst belongs to this department and left with

disgust. I may inform him that he had nothing to do with this department. So far as my information goes, he came here in connection with the Department of Agriculture and how he felt there is a matter which I do not know.

With regard to the question of contour survey, our main difficulty has been that the instruments which belonged to this Government had been given away by the Government of Bengal, during the last Ministry and it was only due to the personal intervention of His Excellency the Governor that we have been able to get some instruments released, and with the 11 lakhs of rupees that has been sanctioned, ,we propose to carry on the remainder of the contour survey in North Bengal. As soon as Mr. Man Singh is released from the Damodar investigation, he will take up this work and in the meantime, we are waiting for other instruments to come in.

With regard to the Damodar Flood Enquiry Committee, that committee submitted its report in March last and no time was lost by Government in giving effect to the main recommendations. A Special Officer was immediately appointed in charge of the work for preparing the Damodar Flood Regulating Reservoirs Project. In the meantime, in January last a conference was called at the instance of the Government of India and it was decided that the Damodar project should be a multi-purpose project. It is understood that such further information as may be required, for the multi-purpose scheme can be collected without difficulty along with the survey already undertaken by this Government for the Damodar Flood Regulating Reservoir Project. Every endeavour is being made to complete preparation of the scheme as early as possible. It has been agreed between this Government and the Government of India that when the multi-purpose scheme will be ready, the flood control part of it will have priority of execution.

Sir, the Maharaja of Burdwan complained that copies of fthe report of his committee had not been made available to the public. Well, Sir, this report contained as many as 37 maps and in view of the fear which we had at one time entertained about how the left embankment, in the Damodar breached, Government thought it prudent that the report should not be published for security reasons. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about the report portion?) I got 100 copies printed and circulated but unfortunately paper scarcity has stood in the way of getting more of them (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why not print it in the "Bengal Weekly"?) I shall convey the suggestion to the Publicity Department.

With regard to the motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta about the Gumti Embankments, I may tell the House that the Gumti Embankment in the district of Tippera are very, very old. And they have been in existence from pre-reform days. The question of preventing breaches in the Gumti Embankments has been engaging the attention of Government for a very long time. Several proposals for checking breaches were made from time to time, but none was considered to be effective. In 1890-91, a portion of the right bank of the embankment was lowered at the expense of the Government with the object of lessening the pressure on the embankment. Now the lower portion has been demolished. In 1920 about 22 miles of the left embankment and 8 miles of the right embankment were taken over by Government for maintenance as taccavi embankment from the Maharaja of Tippera and other zemindars. The lower portion and the demolished portion of the left embankment were not taken over by Government. Breaches do not occur in this portion of the embankment which is known as the non-Government portion. With a view to minimising floods and preventing breaches in the embankment, it was proposed in 1935 to construct two gates for diverting floods. The proposal was thoroughly examined by a Special Officer, but unfortunately the then Chief Engineer Mr. Mazumdar did not

support this proposal as, in his opinion, the effect would be to divert floods from one place to another. The idea was therefore abandoned. In December, 1939, a conference of local M.L.As. and M.L.Cs., was held with a view to finding out what policy should be pursued with regard to the Gumti Embankment in future. The unanimous decision of the conference was that the best course would be to abandon the embankment altogether retaining a small portion for the protection of the Comilla town but before such actual abandonment, a survey was to be made with a view to finding out the extent of damage that might be done if and when the embankment was abandoned and whether any apprehended damage could be avoided or minimised by growing a substitute crop or otherwise. The *status quo* was agreed to be maintained in the meantime and the breaches were to be repaired as and when they occurred. The work of strengthening the left embankment has recently been done at a cost of Rs. 7½ lakhs.

Sir, Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu drew attention to the fact that haphazard undertakings were taking place without proper schemes and without advice of experts. Sir, nothing is done, nothing is undertaken in this department without expert advice. If Mr. Kundu will give me any specific instance where any haphazard action has been taken, I shall be glad to take necessary steps to remove the difficulties, if any. Of course we did not take the advice of Mr. Kundu and to that extent I plead guilty.

Sir, Mr. Radhanath Das drew attention to the question of the rivers in the district of Hooghly. The question of resuscitating the rivers in the district of Hooghly has received careful consideration of this Government for sometime and the scheme named the Damodar-Hooghly-Howrah Flushing and Irrigation Scheme was prepared. A scheme which aims at improving almost all the dead and dying rivers of the district Hooghly is being prepared and, as I have already said, every endeavour is being made to complete the preparation of the Damodar Flood Regulating Reservoirs Project as early as possible.

The silt clearing of one portion of the Damodar estimated at a cost of Rs.48,000 has already been taken up for execution. Two more schemes, namely, silt clearing of the Kedareswar and . . .estimated to cost of Rs.1,06,000 are nearly ready. I admit that North Bengal has been neglected hitherto. One scheme, namely,... ..... .Scheme in the district of Murshidabad costing Rs.6,600 has been completed and 49 schemes estimated to cost Rs.12,07,000 are under execution. Besides 18 schemes estimated to cost Rs.11 lakhs are nearly ready. In addition a large number of schemes are under investigation. One new Circle, 3 Divisions and Subdivisions have been opened in North Bengal and I expect a large number of schemes will be taken up in near future. As I have already said, contour survey of one-third portion of North Bengal will be completed. After that, survey in the remaining portion is to be taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.11½ lakhs.

Sir, the Maharaja of Burdwan raised the question of Rivers Commission. The question of dealing with the problems of rivers which pass through more than one province has been receiving the attention of Government for sometime past. As piecemeal action taken by individual province for tackling portions of such rivers as flow through more than one province can never be successful in the long run, the question of formation of Inter-Provincial Rivers Commission to deal with the problems of the Ganges and Brahmaputra-Meghna rivers was taken up, but it has been found that the establishment of an Inter-Provincial Rivers Commision is fraught with many difficulties. Even if it were possible to establish such Commissions they will not have such effective power, because they will not have any funds of their own for execution of their schemes, so that even if any province accepts their advice about carrying out any scheme they will have to wait till the province in

question supplies the necessary funds for them. This Government therefore thought thet the best way of conserving and controlling big rivers was to establish regional authorities with representatives from the province and the centre with adequate powers and financial resources on the lines of the Tennessee Valley authority. This matter has been taken up with the Government of India. Pending the formation of the authorities steps are being taken for the formation of commissions for the Brahmaputra-Meghna and for the Ganges.

I shall now, Sir, briefly state and tell the Maharaja of Burdwan, what we have been doing about irrigation and drainage of the province. I was indeed very sorry to hear him say that nothing has been done. So far 32 Emergency Irrigation Schemes estimated to cost Rs.17,15,000 total has been sanctioned. Out of these, 13 schemes costing about Rs.4 lakhs have already been completed. The remaining are under execution. A number of other emergency schemes are under examination and preparation. As may as 101 Rehabilitation Schemes spread over almost the whole province are already under execution at an estimated cost of Rs.52 lakhs. A sum of Rs 26 lakhs divided into units of 1 lakh each has been allotted to the Collectors of 26 districts for execution of minor irrigation schemes. In addition 25 schemes estimated to cost about Rs.1½ lakhs are under execution through the agency of certain District Boards. More schemes are under examination for execution through the agency of District Boards. Sanction has just been given for 57 more schemes at an aggregate estimated cost of Rs.65½ lakhs. They are expected to be completed by May, 1946.

Will anyone in this House therefor grudge me, the claim that we have neither been negligent nor idle, and that we have not been haphazard in our methods? After all, what has been the history of irrigational activity in the province after provincial autonomy had been granted to it? During the first five years of the first Ministry under the 1935 Act, from 1937 to December, 1941, when Maharaja Sris Chandra Nandy was in charge, the total amount spent in irrigation was 33 lakhs, i.e., just about 8 lakhs a year During the 16th months which followed when Mr. Shamsuddin was in charge, the total amount spent was a miserable lakh and a quarter, i.e., less than a lakh a year. What is beyond comprehension is that orders were then passed suspending all irrigation work. We cancelled those orders directly we took office, and during the eleven months of our first year, we spent more than 75 lakhs. Of course in it is included what was spent on the Damodar Embankment. Between April, 1944 and March, 1945, the total amount of work done would be in the neighbourhood of Rs.2,16,64,000 and in the year which lies ahead,, we have a programme of work estimated to cost about Rs.2,41,16,000, I ask again, have we been really idle? Have we been haphazard? Have we been unresponsive?

Criticise us, if you like. But you cannot run away from facts and I remain firm in my claim that the department of irrigation in Bengal has been vitalised into life during the last two years.

I confess, nevertheless, that we are nowhere near a permanent solution of this outstanding problem of the province. To my mind, a daring, gigantic all-embracing scheme of irrigation alone can save Bengal as it has saved the Punjab and Sind. Nothing else will.

What we are doing today has to be done under the stress of present conditions and with a remembrance of the appalling conditions of 1943. But I will assure the House that we are working for the bigger thing. We have just appointed a Special Officer—only this morning—to make investigations and to collect data for a scheme which, when executed, will once again make Bengal, the happy and propsperous province, it once was, and

when the poorest in the land will get two square meals a day from year's end to year's end. The pity of the situation then will be that the occupation of Opposition in the legislature will be gone.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs.1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about (*i*) the absence of any comprehensive policy for tackling the irrigation problems of the province as a whole; (*ii*) inadequacy of the arrangements for the River Research Institute; (*iii*) haphazard character of emergency and rehabilitation irrigation works and maladministration and wastefulness in connection therewith; and (*iv*) delay in dealing with Damodar Flood Control Projects, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Rs.1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about haphazard undertaking without proper scheme and without advice from experts, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maharajadhiraja Bahadur Uday Chand Mahtab, of Burdwan, that the demand of Rs.1,31,31000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to execute any important irrigation work for "Grow More Food" Campaign and Rehabilitation Scheme, was then put and lost.

The motion of Puspajit Barma that the demand of Rs.1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about failure of the Government to provide North Bengal with adequate irrigation facilities, was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Radhanath Das that the demand of Rs.1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to resuscitate the rivers of the district of Hooghly and of the province at large, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Harendra Nath Dolui that the demand of Rs.1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the uselessness of maintenance of embankment in the rivers Selyee, Dwarakeswar and Damodar and Cossye, the existence of which causes flood and the failure of Government to prevent havoc by flood devastating a large area of the subdivision of Ghatal, in the district of Midnapore, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs.1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government in not making any provision for preventing the flood of Gumti river in the district of Tippera due to the breaches in the embankment or due to want of embankment, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Charu Chandra Roy that the demand of Rs. 1,31,31,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the negligence and apathy of the Government to re-excavate the river main Brahmaputra and the new Brahmaputra known as Jumna and the branch thereof known as Charabari river in the subdivision of Tangail, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain that a sum of Rs.1,31,31,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XVII, etc.—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Finance from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works", was then put and agreed to.

50—Civil Works and 81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,14,17,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue".

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about Government's failure to increase and improve communication in rural areas.

Sir, so long we were in uncertain mind. Let us come to sold land. Let us discuss what could have been and should have been done by Government and actually has not been done by them.

Sir, improvement of rural area is a very very old cry. It appears that it is more a slogan to cry upon than a real objective to be achieved. Even in pre-war times, the volume of public opinion in rural Bengal insistently demanded that with a view to ensuring the prospects of the people in the villages a solid, definite and concrete plan for rebuilding of roads should be taken up forthwith. But, Sir, it was a cry in the wilderness. Sir, when the War came with all its evil antecedents, it was expected at least that out of this evil some good would come. It was expected that for war purposes at least crores and crores of rupees would be available for the rebuilding of the old roads and for the preparation of the new ones and that would be done with military needs and exigencies in view. But even here, Sir, the province has been disappointed.

Sir, the military lorries and automobiles of different descriptions—small, big and intermediate—are stalking even the remotest cornerrs of Bengal and they ar damaging the roads which had already had a precarious existence, but then I do not know the reason, why the Government of Bengal have not been able to compel the military authorities on the one hand and the Central Government on the other to pay a substantial contribution for road building for our province. We have not been able to compel these white men to quit India; but though we have not been able to compel them to quit India, we ought to have been at least able to compel them to pay a substantial contribution to this end, if they are to stay here. I would ask the Hon'ble Minister whether Government is aware of the precarious condition of the roads and whether Government is also aware that these roads ought to have been in existence. Look at the miserable condition of the District Board roads. They cannot even repair these roads out of their own revenues. The reasons are obvious. The District Boards made a pathetic representation to the Government of Bengal in the hope that they would come to their rescue. The contributions of the Central Road Board Fund are a mere pittance and a State interdictory and more or less a ridicule regarding the proportion it had to the requirements. I am not going to the municipalities, but particularly for the District Board roads, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what has been done to make a generous response to this demand of the District Boards.

Sir, you know that today the village life is linked with the town. During war time, particularly, villages have ceased to be self-sufficient: they have to run to the town, because they have to flock to the officers every now and then. In order to make the officers aquainted with the real needs of the village life. Ration is not available, cloth is not available, medicine is not available amongst other things, and every hour the villagers have to rush to the towns in the first place to get what aid they can from their own resources, secondly to make the officials acquainted with their miserable condition. Visualise their condition during the rainy

season. Even outside the rainy season motor buses have ceased to operate on account of petrol scarcity; railways cannot be availed of because of the Herculean congestion there. Therefore the people have to use the ordinary roads and these roads cannot be adequately availed of even outside the rainy season, and during the rainy season, as regards the condition of the roads, the less said the better. I therefore demand that the Hon'ble Minister will apply his mind to the question not only of repairing the old roads, but building up new ones—I mean, real roads which are metalled and which can be used as thoroughfare throughout the year. I would also expect the Hon'ble Minister to apply his mind to the question of taking up water service during the rainy season. It will not do for the individuals to depend upon their individual procurements for the purpose of water thoroughfare. As a matter of fact, during the rainy season water tracts have been used in the past; they will be used in the future and they are being used in the present, and in view of the peculiar conditions imposed by War, they have to use whatever communications they have: they have to depend upon their precarious resources. It is the bounden duty of the Government to take up public service on water tracts throughout the province of Bengal. Certain boats ought to be made available for water service and the people must know that if they can pay they can get the help of a boat at a particular time at a particular place and for a particular destination. We hear too much of Post-War Reconstruction. There cannot be any reconstruction unless the villages are put on a proper condition. Villages will not be used as permanent places of residence so long as these difficulties are not removed. I know of decent gentlemen having sufficient resources willing to live in the villages but they cannot live in the villages, because they cannot get sufficient connection with the urban areas. Give them that opportunity and the villages will not be deserted, but will be inhabited by people with ideals and ideologies, and in this way villages will grow up. If villages have to be made to look up, they must be linked with urban areas and with one another. Unless the villages are fed with communications and unless they are fed with roads and water channels, they cannot be linked with the urban areas and with the commercial world. Pressure on living is there nowadays and the least thing you can expect is that the villages will remain isolated from one another and from the metropolitan towns. Therefore, the first article for regulating our national life requires that the villages must have easy, sufficient and convenient communications. If that is not done, then all cry of Post-War Reconstruction, all cry of Rehabilitation of Bengal will be a mere slogan insincerely expressed and not a real objective to be achieved by the Government. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister what steps he has taken for asking the Central Government for contributing to this purpose and why Bengal has not got more roads and more mileages in the course of the last three or four years, particularly during the two years that this Ministry has been in office, why Bengal has not repaired the roads in rural areas. If the Hon'ble Minister has already set on foot any plan, of course we can say that he has made a beginning. If that has not been done, we would say that all cry of Post-War Reconstruction is a humbug and a bogey and the cry of Village Rehabilitation is nothing but an unnecessary dodge.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope members will not take more than five minutes each.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am sorry I have got to take at least 15 minutes. I have two motions and if you would allow 7½ minutes for each it would mean at least 15 minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would request you to take as little time as possible.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the misuse of public money allotted for repairs to 8, Theatre Road, for the accommodation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমার নামে যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আছে আমি তাহা উপস্থিত করিতেছি। আমার এই প্রস্তাবের উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে Civil Worksএর ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ হতে চল্লিশ হাজার টাকা ৮নং Theatre Roadএর বাড়ী মেরামতের জন্য যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে তার প্রতিবাদ করার জন্য আমি এই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করছি। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে প্রথমে জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে Theatre Roadএর আট নং বাড়ীটা কার। আমি বিশ্বস্তসূত্রে জানতে পেরেছি ঢাকার নবাব পরিবারের পরিবানু বেগমের এই বাড়ী। (Cries of "no no.")

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not fair to bring in names.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: এই বাড়ীটা কার তা জানতে হবে এবং বাংলার জনসাধারণের পক্ষ থেকে এই বাড়ী কার সেটা জানবার অধিকার আমার রয়েছে। তাই আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করছি যে এই বাড়ী বাস্তবিক ঢাকার নবাব পরিবারের কি না। এটা বহু পুরাতন বাড়ী জরাজীর্ণ হয়ে গিয়েছে। বর্তমান প্রধান মন্ত্রী Sir Nazimuddin সেই বাড়ীটাকে ভাড়া নিয়েছেন এবং বাংলার জনসাধারণের, বিশেষ করে প্রজার রক্ত নেংড়ান টাকা, যাহা নাকি বাংলার সরকারী তহবিলে জমা আছে সেই টাকার দ্বারাতে তার থেকে ৪০,০০০ টাকা খরচ করে সেই বাড়ীটাকে মেরামত করে নেওয়া হচ্ছে, একথা সত্য কিনা। এবং আমি আরো জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই তাঁর কোন গুণে, প্রধান মন্ত্রী হিসাবেই হোক আর যে কোন ভাবেই হোক এই টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে। এই বাড়ীতে কে বাস করবে, কোন মানুষ বাস করবে, প্রধান মন্ত্রী বাস করবে কিম্বা কোন কুকুর বিড়াল বাস করবে সেটা আমরা দেখতে চাই না। আমরা জানতে চাই যে এই বাড়িটার জন্য চল্লিশ হাজার টাকা কেন বরাদ্দ হ'লো। যদি প্রধান মন্ত্রী হিসাবে বসবাস করবার জন্য সেই বাড়ী মেরামত করবার জন্য ৪০,০০০ টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ হয়ে থাকে, তাহলে বর্তমান প্রধান মন্ত্রীর কোন গুণে, কোন রীতি অনুসারে তিনি সেই বাড়ির জন্য চল্লিশ হাজার টাকা পাওয়ার অধিকারী? সেটা জানবার অধিকার আমাদের রয়েছে। যে বর্বরতার গুণে, যে বর্বরতার নীতি প্রদর্শন করে, আজ জাপান, জার্মাণী, আমেরিকা এবং বৃটিশ দেখিয়েছে যে যে সৈন্যদলে শত্রুপক্ষের বহু লোককে মারতে পারে সেই সেনাদলের সেনাপতি, সেইভাবে, সেই নীতি অনুসারেই কি বাংলার মন্ত্রিসভার সেনাপতি Sir. Nazimuddin তাঁর মন্ত্রিসভা যে অপকর্ম করেছে, যেভাবে বাংলার ২২,৫০,০০,০০০ টাকা, কারবার করতে গিয়ে খাদ্যশস্য পচিয়ে লোকসান দিয়েছে তারজন্য অপর দিকে ৪০,০০০৲ টাকা বাড়ী মেরামতের জন্য নেবার ব্যবস্থা করছেন?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope you will confine your remarks to your motion.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: ৪০,০০০৲ টাকা পাবার অধিকারী কিনা সেটা জানবার বিষয়। কোন গুণে ৪০,০০০৲ টাকা দিয়ে যে বাড়ীতে তিনি বসবাস করবেন তা মেরামত করবার জন্য বাংলার জনসাধারণের এই ৪০,০০০৲ টাকা তিনি খরচ করাবেন। কোন গুণে, পরিষ্কারভাবে আমি জানতে চাই। আজ যে বাংলার জনসাধারণ বস্ত্রের অভাবে উলঙ্গ হয়ে পড়েছে তারই পুরস্কারের জন্য? বাংলার জনসাধারণ ঔষধ না পেয়ে পথে ঘাটে কুকুর বেড়ালের মত মারা যাচ্ছে—ঔষধ না দিয়ে, খাদ্যের ব্যবস্থা না করে তারই পুরস্কারের জন্য না কি? আজ বাংলার যে জনসাধারণ কোন দিক দিয়েই কোন রকম সুবিধা পাচ্ছে না তারই পুরস্কার স্বরূপ তিনি সেই টাকা পাওয়ার অধিকারী কিনা সেই কথা আমি জানতে চাই। আরো জানতে চাই কোন গুণে তিনি সেই টাকা নেবেন। তিনি কি এই বৃটিশ সাম্রাজ্যবাদীদের চিরকাল গোলামী করে এই বাংলাকে চিরকাল সাম্রাজ্যবাদীদের অধীনে গোলাম করে রাখার যে নীতি অবলম্বন করে যাচ্ছেন তারই পুরস্কার স্বরূপে সেই ৪০,০০০৲ টাকা নেওয়ার অধিকারী হয়েছেন? এই সব কথা আমি পরিষ্কার করে জানতে চাই। মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আজকে যে দুরবস্থা বাংলার জনসাধারণের খাবার নাই, রহিবে ঘর নাই, পরণে কাপড় নাই, উলঙ্গ হয়ে রাস্তায় রাস্তায় ঘুরছে, এই অবস্থায় বাংলার প্রধান মন্ত্রী, বাংলার জনসাধারণের প্রধান মন্ত্রী হিসাবে তিনি যে টাকা নিচ্ছেন সে বাংলার জনসাধারণের টাকা। তিনি মাইনে পাচ্ছেন, জাইনেডোগী মেঁকি হিসাবে তাঁর বিবেচনা করা উচিত ছিল, তাঁর লজ্জিত হওয়া উচিত

ছিল, তাঁর মাথা অবনত করা উচিত ছিল। এই দুর্দিনে জনসাধারণকে নানাভাবে ভুগিয়ে তিনি নিজের সুখ-সুবিধার জন্য ৪০,০০০৲ টাকা নিয়ে যাচ্ছেন, তাঁর বিছানা, খাট, পালঙ্ক ইত্যাদি যোগাবার জন্য। বাংলার জনসাধারণ তা দিতে তৈরী নয় এবং প্রস্তুত নয়, কখনও সেটা সহ্য করবে না। তার প্রতিক্রিয়া দেখা দেবে। কড়ায় গণ্ডায় এই টাকা বাংলার জনসাধারণ একদিন তাঁর কাছ হতে বুঝে নেবে। এই কথা বলে আমি আমার বক্তৃতা শেষ করছি।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 each, firstly, to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to maintain and repair existing roads damaged through increased wartime traffic and to plan and undertake village and inter-district roads, and, secondly, to raise a discussion about the maladministration of the department generally and in particular with regard to the selection of staff and contractors.

Sir, if you had given me sufficient time, I would have dilated on the first of these two motions in great detail pointing out to the Government and the party the urgency of undertaking extensive repairs to many of our vital roads in the towns, as well as in villages which have now grown very, very unusable due to heavy wartime traffic, and also to the necessity of undertaking rural roads and inter-district roads in particular and not to abandon road projects merely on the plea that road materials and staff are not sufficiently available for war purposes.

I had occasion to study the post-war road planning both of Bengal and of the centre and it is my firm conviction, Sir, that Bengal needs very much greater attention to rural road system and to the subsidiary or feeder road services than to what is known as a category of national highways which could be, as is proposed, taken up by the Government of India at a later stage and financed and maintained out of Central Revenue.

Sir, I leave this problem at that, because the next subject that I propose to take up is of far greater importance in the immediate future and I believe the party behind the Ministers will give me sufficient and patient hearing in this connection.

One of the biggest casualties in this great war has been honesty in the services of the people. Sir, I submit that in breaking up the morale of the people the department of Civil Works has played no small part in comparison with the department of Civil Supplies and this has been so because the Minister concerned began to take personal interest not merely in the determination of the policy of the department, but also in the active selection of contractors and the staff. The result has been most disastrous. In the latter part of December, 1943, the former practice of entrusting the enlistment of contractors to Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers and in some cases to the Chief Engineer was scrapped. At that time certain big military works at Barrackpore were being undertaken by the Government of Bengal. Suddenly the Bengal Government's Department of Communications and Works discovered that with a view to provide better opportunities as was alleged for the Muslim community in the contract work they had changed their old policy. We in this House had occasion to draw pointed attention to the manner in which in the name of providing better opportunities to Muslims, this new policy has led nothing more than to open out gates of corruption and party patronage. The beneficiaries out of that policy have, so far as we can discover, been none other than certain persons who are friends and near relations of certain Ministers. I submit that if that has been the net result of the policy that was adopted in December, 1943, it is high time that the entire system should be reviewed and changed.

Amongst those who have been beneficiaries of this policy, I would give a few names who had in the past before the advent of the new Ministry

never undertaken any important work of the Department of Communications and Works of the Government of Bengal, and some of whom, at any rate, were never in the business of contractors in building or road-making at all. The first and the foremost in this list of beneficiaries of the new policy comes out the name of the renowned cloth-dealers of Burrabazar, namely, Messrs. Jeewanram Gangaram of Cross Street. I would not like to repeat the various important major works of substantial contracts given to this firm, and I had occasion to know and understand and expose some of the trickeries played in that connection. I have hardly any time today to go through all this, but if need be, I am prepared to place all the materials before any independent Tribunal or Court of Enquiry, and even if any decent set of people in this Ministry be pleased to go into the papers, I am prepared to give these to them for their scrutiny. The second set of beneficiaries, let me give the names more quickly, which is in the list before me, are Messrs. K. C. Auddy and Company, a relation or perhaps a would be relation of the Hon'ble Minister. He has another firm, namely, Sarbamangala Bhander of which this man is the proprietor, the fourth is B. P. Chatterjee, Howrah, who is a close friend of the Hon'ble Minister; G. D. Loyalka and Messrs. Regent Estates, two other friendly firms come under fifth and sixth. Senventh is Neogi, Dey and Co., and eighth is Kondai & Co. of which one Sadasuk, is proprietor, another Marwari of Burrabazar in Kalaker Street, who is a friend of the Hon'ble Minister, and even the driver of the Hon'ble Minister——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, is it necessary to give the long list of names? You know the rules very well. They are only to make the speech intelligible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am only giving names showing party patronage and friends being patronised. I am not giving anything else.

Sir, even the driver of the Hon'ble Minister has been given some solace and his firm Nandy and Co., Sastitala, Santragachi, has been given patronage, although there was no such approved firm before. Added to that there were firms which were old, but never did any good work more than doing third class works before, viz., Messrs. J. Dhar & Co., and S. N. Kar and Company. They also came in, and on the recommendations of other friends of the Hon'ble Minister came in firms Manoj Mohan Mukherjee, and you will be shocked to learn that even recently the Bengal-Assam Construction Company of Jagannath Koley from whom certain persons received Rs.5,000, has been given a section off the second phase of Damodar Embankment remodelling work, although that firm never did any work. (Cries of name them from the Coalition Benches) I won't raise that issue now. Hold an enquiry and, if necessary, I will give the particulars then.

Then, Sir, amongst the firms which were in a way related to or patronized by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Commerce and Labour who was the second person in the Board, supposed to be effecting selections viz., the Hon'ble Mr. Shahabuddin are these firms, viz., firstly Messrs. Bengal Construction Co. of which Mrs. Shahabuddin and Hamidul Huq Chowdhuri appear to be partners. Then comes Shalimar Engineering Company of which the partners appear to be Mrs. Shahabuddin, Hamidul Huq Chowdhuri, Khan Bahadur Abdul Momin and probably for one work Mr. Fazlul Karim of Dacca. Then come Zaidi & Co. of Khan Bahadur Momin and Saboor and Company—of course this Company was not nominated by the Hon'ble Mr. Shahabuddin, but was recommended by the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy. The firm was also a ministerially selected firm. Baker and Company, an old contractor, that never did any big work under the previous regime, is being patronized now. The other firms are A. Salam & Sons, Shalem & Sons, Alpha & Company, H. N.

Mukherjee, Sobhan Bux Mandal & Co., Zaffer and Company, Jamal Ahmed, and so on. The result is that even some of the old Muslim Contractors are pushed out and firms like Abdul Bari Khan, son-in-law of Maulana Akram Khan, an old-listed contractor of Basirhat have not been much helped.

There are also other members, who have taken advantage of this position and the natural course was that as the officials found it convenient to please the Hon'ble Ministers, they also began to take good advantage of it. The first beneficiaries out of that was the Chief Engineer of the Department, I mean Mr. Chambers. He had a well-known friend the late Mr. King, for whom probably he felt very deeply, because he is no longer living. His brother-in-law managed the show of G. Eshaw and Company, hollow bricks patentee who came to be the first to be patronised. Secondly, Messrs. Leslie and Company came into the picture. This firm which is managed by an unknown European gentleman and was established in 1943 and about whom an interesting case is now pending in the Courts. More about this company, you will probably come to know later on. In this firm, it is reported, the Chief Engineer of Bengal has a personal share. Many things are likely to be revealed about this firm's business and I am not going to reveal these just now, except that one important Officer of the Government of Bengal, who has now fled from the country or said to flee—Colonel Ottaway—was actually arrested and caught and tried—trial is still going on—for having some financial interest in that firm. That firm was given all on a sudden, a very big order at Khulna for "Nissen Hut" construction. Another interesting thing was that this firm was suddenly given patronage in connection with the repair of road-rollers for the year 1943-44. The interesting thing which would probably surprise the House is that originally this work was distributed to Messrs. Bonnard and Company and Messrs. P. Ghose and Company—two old contractors having workshops. This work was given on open tenders and at lowest rates. In October, 1943, this tender was invited. Suddenly in January, 1944, that is, hardly two months after that, the Chief Engineer reported that the repairs should be completed quickly and without giving a chance to those parties, the work was snatched away, although both of them assured that they would finish the work, if the work was so much urgent, within a fortnight from that date, yet the work was snatched away and given to Leslie and Company and at a rate which was not settled then, but later on transpired to be double the rate, that was offered by the other two contractors. The work that was to be finished in 15 days was not finished in the course of 3 long months and was not finished even as late as September, 1944, at any rate.

Sir, this mutual admiration, or I should say, mutual self-help was freely going on and even the Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department who otherwise in the past had a good record and reputation succumbed ultimately to it and he brought in two contractors, Messrs. Malhotra from Delhi and Madhoram Soft, and they were given big works in the Cossye Division.

As regards Mr. Chambers, I should say very little about his affairs because his affairs had been under survey and examination by the departmental auditors, these files had been hanging fire for a long time interconnected with three important works he had done. One was Sevoke-Bagrakot road affair; another was Darjeeling district malpractices which were well known at that time and about which the Auditor of the Government of India had reported that several lakhs of rupees were found disappearing and Mr. Chambers was then the Superintending Engineer.

(At this stage the member reached the time limit but was allowed two minutes more to finish his speech.)

Sir, the second thing is about the reckless expenses incurred in connection with the Delta Road works which also Mr. Chambers was responsible

for. The third was in connection with Messrs. Eshaw & Co. who were given large and huge advances of money in connection with the alleged construction of bricks for Arakan Road, and this Arakan Road bricks were never constructed by them and they made a plea later on that they were making bricks but because they could not procure coal in proper time, bricks could not be manufactured; yet they were provided with a very huge compensation.

These three matters were under investigation and the Hon'ble Minister cleverly managed the affairs and Mr. Chambers had to succumb because he found that it was much better to give way than to resist the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. P. C. Neogy, another difficult person at first to tackle, found it easier later on to adjust and probably wiser to adjust his views to that of the Minister, because he was then having some tussle for his being made permanent as a Superintending Engineer against another good officer, Mr. T. C. Mitra, and not only was this Mr. Neogy confirmed although he made a little comment here and there criticising the Hon'ble Minister's policy, but he also found solace later on in the loving bosom of the Hon'ble Minister. He has now been made a Deputy Engineer without any portfolio and he has been shunted off with the so-called important work of Post-War Reconstruction Planning.

So far as Bengal is concerned, Sir, you are all aware that Bengal road problems and projects have been elaborately worked out by Mr. King, an able Executive Engineer in the past, and this Mr. King's report still stands as a voluminous work over which at least all future works for the next 200 years might be undertaken. We are therefore not in a position to understand why Mr. Neogy has been entrusted with this work again and I am sure he will not be in a position to improve upon the great work of Mr. King. In the irrigation department, Mr. Subarwal was given an extension as Chief Engineer, Irrigation, but Europeans are a very difficult party to deal with and so Mr. Russel, the next officer in the service had to be given some solace. So the whole Irrigation Department has now been divided under two Chief Engineers—one, Chief Engineer, East, and the other Chief Engineer, West. Mr. Russel is in charge of the West and Mr. Subarwal is in charge of the East. And what has happened? As a result one very capable Bengali officer, Rai Bahadur S. K. Guha, a senior-most officer, has been shunted off. Again there is a new circle created——

(At this stage the member again reached the time limit.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I cannot give you more time.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, let him go on. We will not speak on it any further.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I will speak for two minutes more.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the Chief Engineer, Communications and Works, Mr. Chambers, must have been very careful about Government funds. Suddenly in the third week of January, 1944, he discovered that the price of Bitumen which was purchased from a Eurpocan firm, was going to be reduced by the Government of India Stores Department from the 1st of February, 1944. So in the third week of January he suddenly ordered his Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers, City, Suburban and Burdwan Divisions, to take immediate delivery of all the stocks from the jetties of the ports and shops. Formerly the practice was that all these suppliers had to supply the stuffs to the place where they were going to be utilised, but here the Chief Engineer was very anxious to keep the price within the range which would enable him to remain friendly

with the merchants. The price was Rs.327 per ton at that time but it was reduced to Rs.260 per ton in February, and in the third week of January, under his orders thousands of tons were taken delivery of just before the lower price came into operation. And the lower price did come into operation under the Government of India's own scheme in agreement with a British company which was importing this Bitumen.

Big works in Calcutta were distributed among friends of either Mr. Chambers or Mr. Pain, and Mr. Shahabuddin has disappeared from the picture now. The wood work at Barrackpore Air Base for which no tender had been invited and no rate has been fixed has been given to Messrs. Jeewanram Gangaram of what efficiency we do not know. And so also the fourth storey of the second block of the Writers' Buildings was entrusted to Messrs. Eshaw & Co. without calling for tenders. The contractors merely supplied labour, and labour charges were very much in excess. For example, Rs.10 was allowed for wood work against Rs.1-8 or Rs.2-8 which is usually given for finished wood work elsewhere. Labour rate for scaffolding and centering was allowed at Rs.85 per 100 square feet as against the usual rate of Rs.25 only. We would like to know what is the total cost involved and how is it that Jeewanram Gangaram was brought in in connection with the work of extension of the Writers' Buildings.

Sir, I move my motions.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100, to raise a discussion about the Dalu and Shalta bridges in the district of Chittagong which are definitely postponed in spite of essential necessity

Sir, এই সংক্ষেপ সময়ের মধ্যখানে আমার নামে যে motionটি আছে সেটি আমি formally move করছি। প্রথমে আমি বাংলা দেশের লোক--আরাকানে (বর্মা) যাতায়াতের যে সংক্ষেপ রাস্তা আছে, সে বিষয়ে Governmentএর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি। এখানে District Boardএর Chairman মৌলবী ছনাউল্লা সাহেব আছেন এবং Ex-Chairman মাননীয় খানবাহাদুর জালালুদ্দীন সাহেব এখানে আছেন। তাঁহাদের সময় বাংলা দেশের সঙ্গে সংক্ষেপ যাতায়াত রাস্তা অভিহিত হয়ে একটি রাস্তার ভিত্তি স্থাপন হয়েছিল। Government কি উদ্দেশ্যে জানি না, কেন একটি মোড় ঘুরিয়ে আঁকা বাঁকা রাস্তা মেরামত করে—তাহা বুঝিবার জ্ঞান আমার নাই। বর্তমান Ministry যদি সেই রাস্তা বার্মার সঙ্গে বাংলার সম্বন্ধ সোজা রাস্তা করিয়া সহজ চলাচল রাস্তা করিতে ইচ্ছুক হন এবং বাংলার চট্টগ্রামের আরাকান Road সহজ করেন, তবে তাহার পরিচয় আমি দিতেছি। আমি আশা করি মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এই বিষয়ে দৃষ্টি রাখিবেন। সহজ হইত চট্টগ্রাম, কানারপুর, চাঁদপুর এবং বারবাকিয়া হইতে যে রাস্তা হইবে--সে রাস্তা অতি সোজা ও অতি কম সময়ে আরাকান যাতায়াতের রাস্তা হইবে। আমি আশা করি যুদ্ধের পরে যে সাধারণভাবে রাস্তা মেরামত আরম্ভ হইবে, তখন এই রাস্তার প্রতি যেন Governmentএর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ হয়। এইজন্য যে পূর্বে scheme করিয়া টাকা খরচ করিতে আরম্ভ করিয়া এখন বন্ধ হইয়াছে, অকারণে সরকার কেন রাস্তাটা বন্ধ করিয়া রাখিয়াছেন, তাহা আমি বুঝিতে পারিতেছি না। মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যুদ্ধের জন্য বর্তমানে লোহা ও সিমেন্ট নাই বলিবেন, আমি আশা করি আগামী District Board বাজেটের পূর্বে ঐ রাস্তার জন্য মোটা টাকার ব্যবস্থা করিয়া সেই টাকাটা বরাদ্দ করিয়া দিবেন।

এই সঙ্গে আমি বলিতেছি আমার বক্তৃতার পর গত supplementary বাজেটের সময় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় reply দিয়াছেন যে এ বিষয় অর্থাৎ সমাজ গৃহ বিষয়--Civil Workএর Ministerএর কাজ। সুতরাং আমি Civil Workএর Ministerএর দৃষ্টি এ বিষয়ে আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। ৫০ বৎসর আগে চট্টগ্রামের Court Building যখন প্রস্তুত হয় তখন সমগ্র Courtএ মাত্র ২২ জন মুসলমান কর্মচারী ছিল, তখন ৩০ জনের উপযোগী একখানা সমাজের room আমাদের দেওয়া হইয়াছিল। বর্তমানে সে ক্ষেত্রে ৩০০ জনের উপর মুসলমান কর্মচারী--প্রায় ডেড্‌শ'র উপর উকিল মোক্তার এবং হাকিম আছে। এই অবস্থায় এই সামান্য roomটুকুতে মুসলমানদের সকলে মিলে নামাজ করা সম্পূর্ণ অসম্ভব হইয়াছে। অনেক সময় Government reply দিয়াছেন (Here the member reached time limit) এক মিনিট, Sir,—পাহাড়ের নিম্নে মসজিদ আছে, তথায় নেমে নমাজ পড়িতে পারে। আমি বলিতেছি যে লোকের যাতায়াতের যদি সুবিধা হইত, তাহা হইলে এই Court building থেকে নমাজ পড়িতে

যাওয়ার কোন অসুবিধা হইত না। বৃষ্টির সময় বৃষ্টিতে ভিজিয়া, রৌদ্রের সময় রৌদ্রে শুকাইয়া সেখানে নমাজ আদায় করিতেছে কেন? সময়ের অভাবে ও পাহাড়ে উঠা নামা করিয়া নিম্নে নমাজের জন্য যাওয়া সম্ভব নহে। Prayer roomএর সঙ্গে যে roomটি আছে, সেই roomটি ছাড়িয়া দিলে খুব সুবিধা হয়। সেখানে মূল্যবান কোন সম্পত্তি নাই--তার কোন আবশ্যকও নাই। তাহাতেও যদি Governmentএর অসুবিধা হয়, আমি বলি সেখানে তাহা হইলে রুমের সম্মুখে টিন দিয়া নমাজের স্থান পাকা করিয়া নমাজের ব্যবস্থা করা হউক। এই সঙ্গে আমি আর একটি কথা বলিতেছি যে ঐ কাজের জন্য জনসাধারণের দেওয়া টাকা যদি আমাদের District Board থেকে বরাদ্দ করার ব্যবস্থা করা হয় তাহ'লে আমাদের Government সেখানে আপত্তি করিবেন কিনা? সেখানে আপত্তি করিবার কোন কারণ থাকিতে পারে না। আমি আশা করি এটা মন্ত্রী মহাশয় স্মরণ রাখিবেন এবং এই ধর্ম্ম সংক্রান্ত প্রধান কাজ মুসলমান কর্ম্মচারী ও হাকিম, উকিল, মোক্তারগণের নমাজের স্থানের সহজ ব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, how many minutes are you giving me?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You formally move it.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: No, Sir. I want to speak on this subject and I will take about eight minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you make it impossible, then I will put this matter to the House how long the House wants to sit. It is impossible for me to carry on because the Hon'ble Minister will speak at least for 10 minutes and there are three other motions also.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I understand that these motions are moved to place some facts and to substantiate the motions with some reasons. It is no use moving a motion and speaking nothing.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Let him have just some minutes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50--Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the unwarranted grant for repair of 8, Theatre Road, and for conversion of 31, Theatre Road, into a hostel for officers of superior status.

Sir, the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain tried to console himself by observing that he consulted expert opinion but he did not consult me. This was a trash humour of the third class for I do not claim to be swelled-headed like him and do not claim to possess expert knowledge, but that does not mean that we do not understand anything of Irrigation and Civil Works. Sir, he was quoting figures while replying to the Irrigation budget. He showed that he spent Rs.75 lakhs, but these figures do not show that they were working bonafide and efficiently (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Honestly.) and honestly. My friend Dr. Sanyal exposed them and condemned them to the point to which they cannot reply. There are instances, which can be multiplied here, of their dishonesty and corruption and jobbery.

Sir, this is another instance of this kind of corruption and jobbery. You will find that this house at 31, Theatre Road, has been advertised for sale. I will read out from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 18th: For sale premises No. 31, Theatre Road, in Calcutta now under the charge of Court of Wards, Bengal. Two-storied building with an area of about 2 bighas of land. Sale will be subject to a proposed lease with Government. Enquire of the Adviser to the Court of Wards, Board of Revenue, Bengal, Writers' Buildings.

Now, Sir, consider that this house at 31, Theatre Road, has been advertised for sale by the Court of Wards. How is it that this dilapidated house before sale is going to be repaired at Government cost only to get a

fair price which will go into the coffers of a relative of the Chief Minister (Cries of "shame" "shame" from the Opposition benches). Sir, the Court of Wards Department of the Government which is supervised by a seniormost I.C.S. Officer Mr. L. R. Fawcus is a party to this jobbery and corruption. I do not know how the Minister of Civil Works will show his face to his constituency and the members when he is a party to this shameless act of making a grant allotment for conversion of 31, Theatre Road. This he is doing because he also wants to satisfy the Chief Minister and stop him by bribing him in this way and remove obstruction from his way for prospering in other ways. So, 75 lakhs of rupees was not spent to irrigate the lands of the province but it was utilised to irrigate some interests somewhere else.

Sir, about Rs.75,000, that is about Rs.1 lakh, has been granted for repair of 8, Theatre Road and conversion of 31, Theatre Road. You know that with that cost a new commodious building can be erected. There is again some jobbery in granting an amount which is very high and cannot be required for the purpose of repairs. This 31, Theatre Road is also occupied by Mr. Nooruddin, M.L.A., brother-in-law of the Chief Minister. You will find if you refer to the alphabetical list of members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly, corrected up to the 15th March, that Mr. Nooruddin is living there with Sir Nazimuddin. My friend Dr. Sanyal referred to hasty and indecent purchase of bitumen by Mr. Chambers. Do you know that that caused loss to Government to the extent of Rs.67,000? In constructing the fourth storey over Block No. II in the Writers' Buildings, that Mr. Ishaw was allowed to draw several thousands of rupees. So, this is how 75 lakhs of rupees have been spent in the Irrigation Department. They are squandering money like that and they claim that they are working with efficiency. The Hon'ble Minister may receive applause from those members, sleeping members, who do not care to look into matters in Writers' Buildings. I would ask them kindly to look into matters and save the province from being ruined and save public money from being squandered in this way.

Sir, I can multiply instances of corruption, but I submit that the members will demand a thorough enquiry into the matter and find out how things are going on in Writers' Buildings and ministerial offices.

Mr. SHAH SYED COLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.40,000.

Sir, Honourable Mr. B. P. Pain Irrigation Departmentএর Budget পাশ করাইয়া লইয়াছেন। সেই Budgetএ টাকার পরিমাণ ১ কোটি ১৪ লক্ষ ১৭ হাজার। তিনি যে দুটো Budget পাশ করিয়ে যাবেন সেই Budgetএর টাকার পরিমাণ হয়েছে ২ কোটি ৪৫ লক্ষ ৪৮ হাজার এবং এ জনসাধারণের কাজে ব্যয়িত হবে না। Irrigation Departmentএর Civil Works Department একটা corruption centre এবং তার মন্ত্রী হতে আরম্ভ করে Departmentএর নিম্নতম পিওন পর্যন্ত এই টাকা অনায়াসে অপচয় করবে। Dr. Sanyal এবং অন্যান্য সদস্য এই Departmentএর corruption সম্বন্ধে বিস্তারিত ভাবে এখানে উপস্থিত করেছেন। Sir, আমাকে যদি ১০ মিনিট সময় দেন বোধ হয় শেষ করতে পারবো না এই Civil Works Departmentএর corruptionএর কথা বলে। Sir, Engineer, Overseer, বিশেষ করে যারা ঘুষখোর এখানে রয়ে গিয়েছে তাদের দ্বারা এই টাকাগুলি Bengal Governmentএর লুটতরাজ হয়ে থাকে। এই টাকার দ্বারা জনসাধারণের কোন সুবিধা হয় না--সুবিধা হয় মন্ত্রিগণের এবং মন্ত্রীর দলভুক্তগণের এই টাকাতে। Provincial Autonomy এই দেশে introduce হওয়ার পূর্বে এই টাকাটা সেই Departmentএর কর্মচারীরা ভোগ করে খেতেন এবং সামান্য কিছু publicএর ঘর বাড়ী ইত্যাদি যাতে হয় তাতে ব্যয় করতেন। অপচয় তাঁরা বন্ধ করতেন। কিন্তু Provincial Autonomy দেশে introduce হওয়ার পর হইতে বিরাট একটা share হয়েছে Treasury benchএর এবং তাঁদের দলভুক্ত যাঁরা আছেন তাঁদের। Sir, এই Budget কখনও পাশ করা যায় না। এই Budget জনসাধারণের পক্ষে সম্পূর্ণ

অপব্যয়। এ ছাড়া আর কিছু নয়। এবং আমরা জানি মন্ত্রী, পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী, মন্ত্রী-তাবেদার দল নূতন নূতন কোম্পানী সৃজন করে এই টাকা লুটের ব্যবস্থা করেছে। নূতন নূতন ঠিকাদার জন্ম হতেছে। ধর্মের নামেও চুরি আরম্ভ করেছে, Islamia & Co. চট্টগ্রামের নূতন কোম্পানী সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। সেই কোম্পানীর উদ্যোক্তা Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Abdulla-Al-Mahmud এবং Civil Supplies Ministerএর Private Secretary, Mr. M. Rahman, আর অনেক সরকারী, বেসরকারী, মন্ত্রী-তাবেদার ও তাদের দল সেই মন্ত্রিসভা ও পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারীদল ঘরে বাইরে সরকারী, বেসরকারী প্রত্যেক শ্রেণীর ভিতরে corruption ঢুকিয়েছে। মানুষকে অসৎ পথে চালিত করছে। সেই মন্ত্রিসভা কখনও সমর্থন করা যায় না। Sir, আর একটা বিষয়, আক্ষেপের বিষয়, এই যে এই প্রদেশের একজন honest man, যাকে সকলে সম্মান করে, Sir Nazimuddin, তাঁকে পর্য্যন্ত এই Budget দ্বারা কলঙ্কিত করা হয়েছে। এইজন্যই কথা আছে যে সর্পোত-ভাবে সব সময় সাধু সঙ্গ করবে; অসৎ সঙ্গে বা দলে কখনও যেও না। অসাধু সঙ্গে চলার দরুনই Sir Nazimuddinএর মুখে চুনকালী পড়েছে। (hear, hear.) তিনি provinceএর প্রধান-মন্ত্রী, তিনি পূর্ব পাকিস্থানের ছোট কায়েদে আজম। এই বাজেটে তিনি সর্বসাধারণের তহবিলের ৪০,০০০৲ টাকা আপনার বাড়ি মেরামতের জন্য নিচ্ছেন। আপনি প্রধান-মন্ত্রী হিসাবে বাংলা দেশের হাজার হাজার গৃহহারার গৃহের বন্দোবস্ত করতে পারেন নাই, সরকারী টাকায় নিজের গৃহের ব্যবস্থা করেছেন। আপনি এখন যদি আমার সঙ্গে চলুন এই কলকাতার footpathএ কত গৃহহারা ছেলে মেয়ে নিয়ে, কাঁথা কম্বল নিয়ে শুয়ে রয়েছে। তাদের জন্য আপনি কি বন্দোবস্ত করেছেন?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government in not metalling and modernising the road from Comilla to Chauddagram in the district of Tippera.

Sir, I only draw the attention of Government in this respect. I do not like to make any speech.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Golam Sarwar Hosaini made a reflection on myself. Mr. Golam Sarwar Hosaini has made a definitely false and malicious statement. (Cries of "No, no" from the Opposition benches.) You may say "No" but you know that it is false and malicious.

Mr. Shah SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: না, না, না, চট্টগ্রামে চল..... (Loud noise from Government Party Benches.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. Mr. Hosaini, will you please resume your seat?

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, I will first of all address myself to the charges that have been so recklessly and flippantly made about 8, Theatre Road and 31, Theatre Road. I am sorry to have to say that the honourable members who spoke on this cut motion did not know what they were talking about.

In the first place it has been said by Mr. Bokainagari that 8, Theatre Road, belonged to near relations of Sir Nazimuddin. (Cries of "No, no" and "it was corrected afterwards; it is 31, Theatre Road", from the Opposition benches). I take it, Sir, that they withdraw this charge. 8, Theatre Road does not belong to any of Sir Nazimuddin's relative.

It is Government property. When reckless and maliciously false allegations were made by the other side we had the courtesy not to interrupt them (uproar). I will not submit to impertinent interruptions.

As I have said, said 8, Theatre Road is Government property. It was in a state of great disrepair, and it was decided that it should be completely overhauled.

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: On a point of order, Sir. Hon'ble Mr. B. P. Pain বলেছেন যে এটা Government property. যদি সত্য এটা Government property হয় কি দলিল আছে? (Loud noise from Government Benches.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. You cannot make it a public meeting. That is no point of order. Will you kindly resume your seat? I have already given my ruling.

Yes, Mr. Pain.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Those who are interested in purloining other people's properties are naturally interested in making such statements. 8, Theatre Road, as I have already said, Sir, was in a state of great disrepair. Government took up the work of making it habitable for decent people to live in. The repairs that had been carried out would save large sums of money spent annually on repairs. Hon'ble members will be interested to know that a decision was taken when Mr. Fazlul Huq was the Chief Minister of Bengal that a house should be furnished and it should be given free of cost to Mr. Fazlul Huq to live in. That was the decision that was taken. Sir Nazimuddin is not taking the house with any furniture. He has taken the house as it is without any single stick of furniture and he is not going to occupy the house free of cost. He is going to pay the usual ten per cent. for the occupancy of the house. I think those honourable members who try to throw mud at Sir Nazimuddin would be ashamed of themselves and would be prepared to offer their unconditional apology to him.

Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu for once in the seven years I have known him waxed eloquence and flourishing a copy of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" of Sunday last said, "How is it that this house is going to be repaired at Government cost when it is a private property?" It has always been unfortunate that the present Opposition does not want to bother themselves with facts but to make reckless and unguided statements which they wish to read in the morning newspapers. 31, Theatre Road is being repaired at the cost of the owner. Government has decided only to provide it with certain amount of furniture and crockery. The decision which has been taken by Government is that 31, Theatre Road, should be used as a hostel for bachelor officers of Government who got stranded in Calcutta for want of accommodation, and the usual rent and other charges will be taken from them. The expenditure on furnishing it is expected to be recouped from the takings from the tenants. I am informed that other Governments in other provinces have made similar provisions for their officers. I hope the statement I have now made will put the last nail on the coffin of the allegations made by the Opposition members about 8, Theatre Road, and 31, Theatre Road.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I know whether Rs.35,000 against 31, Theatre Road, means the conversion of 31, Theatre Road, into a hostel?

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Rs.35,000 is split up into two items: that is, Rs.25,000 for crockeries and furniture and Rs.10,000 for repair.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is absurd.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: It may be absurd for people who are not used to live up to a particular standard. Dr. Sanyal has spoken about corruption. He sees corruption everywhere excepting in himself. Father corruptor will be well advised to pose before a mirror once a day before retiring, and he would see corruption in all its phases and aspects and in all its hideousness and nakedness. Dr. Sanyal has given certain names and has gone to the length of asserting in his usual untruthful way that these persons are related to me. I have never heard a more

scandalous and false statement than this. Mr. K. C. Addy, is not a relation of mine. With regard to the other person, Mr. Dhar, I do not know him from Adam. Certain allegations have been made against my driver. It has been stated that my driver was interested in helping a certain party in the matter of getting a certain work. This is untrue and all that I know about my driver is that some members of the opposition wanted to avail themselves of his services to speak to him on their behalf. Nothing of course resulted. If Dr. Sanyal will repeat what he has said to my driver ouside this House, he will get his answer from him.

Sir, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal has referred to Government's failure to increase communications in rural areas. So far as Government roads are concerned, we claim that they are in a fairly good state of repair. Even in the few cases where we have not been able to maintain the roads in good condition it has been due to the want of road-building materials and acute transport problem. With regard to local roads that is a matter for which Government is not responsible. We are now busy in the preparation of the post-war reconstruction planning. Estimates for Rs.106 crores have been prepared and sent up to the Government of India. This scheme covers 1,257 miles of national highways, 2,204 miles of provincial highways and 6,285 miles of metalled district board roads, and 5,929 miles of other district roads and 14,070 miles of village roads——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All a hoax.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Against all this mileage there is also the mileage of false statements of Dr. Sanyal and nothing else. The national highways run throughout the length and breadth of India. All the provincial highways connect the arterial roads leading to railways and roads leading to the adjacent provinces. The district roads can be divided into two classes: roads passing through each district connecting the market places with areas of production and connecting these with each other or with the highways. The national and provincial highways and the major district roads would be the framework of the entire post-war road scheme, and as such they will be given priority in the post-war reconstruction scheme.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is a wrong policy.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Whether it is a wrong policy or not, Government has got to go by the advice of its trusted experts and not on the advice of irresponsible members of this House.

As regards the village roads our scheme is to construct roads to help the development of agriculture and transport of agricultural goods within a distance of five miles from the main roads. It will therefore be seen that the interests of rural communication are not also neglected in the matter of road-planning.

Then, Sir, Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta has raised a discussion on the construction of a road from Comilla to Chauddagram which has not yet found a place in the road scheme of Government. Sir, the reason for that is that there is another road which we consider to be more important. Government have constructed a modern road from Comilla from the Central Road Board Fund at a cost of Rs. ten lakhs, Tippera cannot therefore grouse.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: That was not done in your regime. It was done before.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: I did not seek to claim any credit for what was not done in my time. I only wanted to inform the House of what has been done for Tippera irrespective of who did it. Sir, we are getting late and I do not think I should take any more time of the House.

With these words I oppose the cut motions.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about Government's failure to increase and improve communication in rural areas was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abdul Wahed Bokainagari that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the misuse of public money allotted for repairs to 8, Theatre Road, for the accommodation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister was then put and lost.

The motions of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 each—

(1) to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to maintain and repair existing roads damaged through increased war-time traffic and to plan and undertake village and inter-district roads, and

(2) to raise a discussion about the maladministration of the department generally and in particular with regard to the selection of staff and contractors,

were then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the Dalu and Shalta bridges in the district of Chittagong which are definitely postponed in spite of essential necessity was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the unwarranted grant for repair of 8, Theatre Road, and for conversion of 31, Theatre Road, into a hostel for officers of superior status was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Shah Syed Golam Sarwar Hosaini that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.40,000 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs.1,14,17,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government in not metalling and modernising the road from Comilla to Chauddagram in the district of Tippera was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain that a sum of Rs.1,14,17,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8-13 p.m. till 4 p.m., on Tuesday, the 20th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 20th March 1945, at 4 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 188 members.

Want of Quorum.

(Attention of the Speaker being drawn to the fact that there was no quorum, the bell was rung and after some time a count was taken and it was declared that there was quorum.)

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Assault on security prisoners in the hospital ward of the Rajshahi Jail.

*143. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was assault and *lathi* charge on the security prisoners in the hospital ward of the Rajshahi Jail on the 29th December last;

(b) whether the following prisoners were hurt and injured—
  (i) Sj. Priyaranjan Das Gupta,
  (ii) Sj. Arun Banerjee,
  (iii) Sj. Saral Kumar Guha, and
  (iv) Sj. Bireswar Singha;

(c) whether it is a fact that after assault, the prisoners were taken by force to punishment cells and confined there;

(d) whether the prisoners named in clause (b)(ii), (iii) and (iv) have been suffering for a long time from serious type of illness and have considerably lost in weights;

(e) whether some of the Hon'ble Ministers were by letters and telegraphic messages informed about the incident requesting them to enquire into the matter and visit the jail;

(f) what steps, if any, have been taken in the matter; and

(g) whether it is a fact that during the period from the 25th April, 1943, till today there were three such assaults on the security prisoners, one each in the Presidency Jail, the Alipore Central Jail and the Rajshahi Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (a) and (b) The honourable member is referred to the reply to items Nos. (a)(i) and (ii) of starred question No. 114, by Mr. Pratul Chandra Ganguli, M.L.A., which was delivered on the 13th December, 1944.

(c) No.

(d) Only security prisoners Babus Arun Banerjee and Bireswar Singha have been suffering from chronic amœbiasis and asthma, respectively. They have since been transferred to the Presidency Jail for treatment by specialist.

(e) Yes.

(*f*) The Home Minister visited the Rajshahi Central Jail.

(*g*) Only two incidents, one in the Presidency Jail and the other in the Rajshahi Central Jail, took place since the 25th April, 1943.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that there is no such question printed in the proceedings of 13th December, 1944, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to reply question (*b*) in detail?

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no such thing?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I cannot at least find it out.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have got a copy of the proceedings. If the honourable member wants I can reply to that question at once. That was answered on the 13th December, 1944. I have it on record in my file.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have just sent for the proceedings.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In the meantime may we put other questions?

Mr. ATUL CHANDA SEN: Question No. 114 of the 13th December refers to the alleged lathi charge on the security prisoners of the Central Jail.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is what I refer to. Mr. Kundu probably could not find that out.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, it may happen that questions printed for a particular day may have been answered on a subsequent day.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No; it was answered on the 13th December. He will find it in the proceedings. It is there.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the date when they received those telegrams and when the Minister visited the Rajshahi Central Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the dates off-hand. I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*) and (*b*) in which the Hon'ble Minister refers to Mr. Ganguli's question of the 13th December, 1944, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the incident referred to?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to the answer given to question No. 114 of Mr. Pratul Chandra Ganguli, M.L.A., where the incident has been mentioned.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In this question we find that there was an incident. The question is whether there was a lathi charge, and the reply is that there was an incident in course of which the security prisoners got injuries. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the incident?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In reply to that question it was mentioned that there was an incident in the Rajshahi Central Jail in course of which the security prisoners so and so received injuries.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: What was the incident?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Assault.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that the Home Minister did not go there as soon as he received those telegrams and he went there long after the incident took place?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He did not go to Rajshahi immediately. He went some time after the incident.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From the answer just given that there was an assault in the Rajshahi Central Jail do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to say that the security prisoners in question were assaulted by jail officials?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There were allegations and counter-allegations and the honourable members will remember a statement made on the subject wherein it was stated that Government have permitted both the members of the jail staff as well as the security prisoners to take action in the Court.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the details of the injuries received by those prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*d*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when they were recommended for being examined by the experts by the Jail Superintendent and when they were actually transferred to the Presidency Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will it be possible for the Hon'ble Minister to enlighten us as to whether they were examined by an expert after they had been transferred from the Rajshahi Jail to the Presidency Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. The prisoners were examined. The latest report says so and I can also state that they were examined.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us a report of the examination by the experts and also the treatments that have been prescribed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Which prisoners?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: About Arun Banerjee and Bireswar Singha.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: So far as Arun Banerjee is concerned he has got the following complaint which was traceable from the very beginning of his admission in the Jail. Gastric flatulence, acidity, occasional vomitting, pain in the stomach, etc., and there is a physical examination and I do not think it will be necessary for me to go into details and there were examinations of blood, stool, and other things and that is the treatment that has been prescribed. This prisoner, Bireswar Singha who was received from the Rajshahi Central Jail was examined by a Physician specialist. His complaints are attacks of asthma for about 1½ years, pain near the apex of the heart. There is a family history of bronchitis. There was no abnormality found in the abdomen and in the diagnosis. The treatment prescribed was injection of swamin and adrenalin. Advice of X-Ray of chest and cardiogram of chest was taken. Nothing was found in the lungs and this was no abnormality.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the treatment prescribed in the case of Arun Banerjee?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: His prescriptions were more or less dietatic and he was put on modified sipi treatment after which his condition improved and he was kept on restricted diet and then due to some irregularities his condition relapsed and he was brought to hospital and was given special diet after which he had some improvement. He was given cardiac hydropathic injection.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the respective weights of these two security prisoners on admission and at the present time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Arun Banerjee's weight on admission was 113 lbs. and his present weight is 113 lbs. By present weight I mean his weight taken on the 9th September, 1944. I have not got the weight of Bireswar Singha for which I would ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In view of the fact that it is difficult for persons in detention to take the matter to court and also in view of the fact that more assaults took place recently in the Alipore Central Jail, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of making a judicial enquiry into the incidents?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That matter has long been closed because a representation was received on behalf of the security prisoners that in order to establish good relations between the jail staff and security prisoners Government accepted the suggestion that prosecution against security prisoners should be withdrawn, and security prisoner, Priya Ranjan had also refrained from instituting any case against the jail staff and the cases have now been withdrawn.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In view of the repetition of similar incidents in the Alipore Central Jail, will the Government be pleased to institute an enquiry?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: This matter has been amicably settled and on the representation of the spokesmen of security prisoners Government came to that decision. The matter has therefore been closed. So the question of an enquiry does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the case instituted by the jail authorities against Sj. Kali K. Sanyal of Rajshahi Central Jail has been withdrawn?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. A reference was made in this connection by Dr. Sanyal. I made an enquiry into the matter and was informed that the case had been withdrawn.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that there has been repetitions of Jail assaults for 4 times during their regime, will the Hon'ble Minister be pelased to state what steps do the Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of such assaults in jails?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not understand how the honourable member arrives at the figure—4 assaults?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Two incidents in the Alipore Central Jail, one in the Presidency Jail and one in the Rajshahi Central Jail.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The honourable member is not correct.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Let us accept that there were 3 incidents. Now, in view of the repeated assaults on detained and un-armed security prisoners, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps do the Government propose to take for preventing further repetition of assaults in future?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Necessary steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents have already been taken by Government.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In the absence of a general release of the security prisoners, will the Government consider the desirability of appointing a committee of this House to look into the condition of security prisoners in jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to prevent recurrence of these assaults?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: They will be too numerous to be recounted at this stage?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the reasons for not agreeing to the suggestion made by Mr. Atul Chandra Sen in his interpellations?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The proposition is not a feasible one to have a committee appointed to look into the affairs as suggested by the honourable member as in that case there will be all sorts of administrative difficulties.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to form a small sub-committee from amongst the members of the Government block to organise frequent visits to the different jails in the Province and to discuss with political prisoners their grievances and other matters which they may place before that sub-committee?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I may state that if any grievance of any security prisoner is brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Home Minister he deals always with such cases very sympathetically. Apart from this, there is also provision for the appointment of special board of visitors for visiting security prisoners and all these members when they visit security prisoners can look into the condition in which the security prisoners live and submit their recommendations and suggestions, if any, to the Government on which action is taken. Therefore, no other sub-committee is considered necessary.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Considering the fact that members and legislators in general were formerly non-official visitors for the purpose of visiting security prisoners, and the practice of appointing members of this House as non-official visitors for the purpose of visiting security prisoners has been discontinued in some cases, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing M.L.A.'s as visitors for the same purpose?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Several members of the Legislature are members of special boards of visitors. There are two boards—one for ordinary prisoners and the other a special board for security prisoners. Members are serving on both the boards.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Mr. Hafizuddin Chaudhuri and Mr. Syama Prosad Barman who have been appointed visitors to visit the Dinajpur Jail are not in the board of visitors for security prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid I cannot answer that question without looking into the papers.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many members of the Ministerialist Party and how many members of the Opposition Party are non-official visitors for the purpose of visiting security prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the figure without notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any member of the Opposition Party of this House is a member of the Special Board?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I would ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please recall the answers that have been given in this session regarding jail visitors to the Dinajpur jail to the effect that non-official visitors who were appointed for security prisoners did not either visit the security prisoners or visited only once in the year?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid I cannot recall that, but I remember that a question was answered wherein it was stated that Mr. Hafizuddin Chaudhuri and Mr. Kader Baksh were members of the Board of Visitors but I cannot recall whether they were members of the outgoing board or members of the present special board or the ordinary board, and I also remember that Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu was also a member of the board. Whether he is still a member or not I cannot say.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if he is aware that so far as members of the Opposition are concerned, either when this Government was in office or any previous Government was in office, at no stage they were allowed to be visitors of security prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. Mr. Atul Chandra Sen, I think, was a member and Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu was also a member.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the honourable member aware that when I offered myself to serve as one of the visitors in one of my constituencies, namely, Berhampore Jail—my constituency has got practically all the jails in the districts of Murshidabad, Nadia, Jessore and Khulna—I was not allowed to become a visitor of any of these jails on the ground that I claimed to be a visitor of all classes of prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is very sad so far as Dr. Sanyal is concerned.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Government consider the desirability of appointing forthwith members belonging to the Opposition as non-official visitors for the purpose of visiting security prisoners, if necessary, together with the members of the Ministerialist party?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There seems to be a difference of opinion among the members of the Opposition.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: You answer my question.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House what are the qualifications necessary to be a visitor of a jail?

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow that question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of replies given just now and the replies given some days earlier, does the Hon'ble Minister think

it desirable not to reappoint those non-official visitors who did not during their incumbency either pay any visit or paid only one visit during the year?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a very good suggestion and the Government will examine that question.

Release of Babu Narayan Chandra Dutta, a security prisoner, on grounds of health.

*209A. (SHORT NOTICE.) **Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (1) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(a) that Babu Narayan Chandra Dutta, a security prisoner at present detained in the Rajshahi Central Jail, has been suffering from heart diseases including aortic incompetence;

(b) that in the month of January last he had a serious attack in the jail office, had extreme difficulty of respiration and lost consciousness for a while;

(c) that he has been from that time confined to bed in the Jail Hospital and is not yet out of danger;

(d) that he was recently examined by the Civil Surgeon, Rajshahi; and

(e) that four or five months ago in the Alipore Central Jail, he had another severe attack and that he had previously two more attacks in the same jail.

(2) If the answer to (1) is in the affirmative—

(a) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table the reports of the Superintendents and Medical Officers of the Alipore and Rajshahi Central Jails, of the Civil Surgeon, Rajshahi, and of the Specialist who examined him in the Calcutta Medical College Hospitals, regarding his disease; and

is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of releasing him on medical ground without any further delay?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (1)(a) Yes. He has been released on the 22nd February, 1945.

(b) to (d) Yes.

(e) The information is not readily available.

(2) (a) A statement is placed on the Library Table.

(b) The prisoner has already been released on medical grounds.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this question was received?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question was tabled on the 7th February 1945 and sent to the department on the 10th February 1945.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why so long a time was taken to release this prisoner in view of the fact that he was found to have 160 systolic pressure and a temperature and he was found to have been suffering from aortic incompetence and his pulse was running very high?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: These were the facts which were taken into account by Government and therefore the security prisoner was released.

Relief under Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1944.

*208S. (SHORT NOTICE.) **Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that the owners of lands who transferred lands in the year 1943 for values of Rs.250 and less and who applied under the Ordinance issued for giving relief to such owners have been required to resubmit the applications at their own cost again under the Act passed for the same validating the Ordinance; and

(*ii*) that by such requirement the owners have been put to unnecessary cost?

(*b*) Do the Government consider the desirability of issuing instructions to the District authorities to accept the applications previously made under the Ordinance and to treat them as applications made under the Act?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): The Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1944, came into force on the 4th January, 1945, and the Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance, 1944, was withdrawn with effect from that date. Only those applicants whose applications could not be disposed of before the 4th January, 1945, are required to file fresh applications under the Act as the Act does not provide for continuance of the pending applications. Government have, however, issued orders that no fresh process fees should be charged in respect of such applications for any purpose under the Act where the applicants paid process-fees for the same purpose in connection with their applications under the Ordinance. The question of exempting court fees is under examination.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May we know first when this question was received and when it was sent to the department?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question was received on the 6th March and was sent to the department on the 8th March.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Today is the 20th March. May we submit, Sir, in such cases where the question has lost all its short-notice value and the Hon'ble Minister has practically refused to accept short-notice, these bracketed words "short notice" need not be put in. There is no meaning in having this taken as short notice. It is not a short notice at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: I allowed it to be treated as short notice and consequently it was sent to the department immediately. Government did not reply earlier. I cannot do anything.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this order for exempting process fees has been issued?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I cannot say the exact date. I want notice.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no provision was made in the Act for the continuance of the applications made under the Ordinance?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Probably through oversight.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how it is possible for the parties to know that the Government had issued orders that fresh applications should be made?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: It has been notified to all officers concerned.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact or not that even before the issue of the Government order mentioned here many applications were dismissed?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: No specific case was brought to our notice, but we received a few applications and we took immediate steps.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that under the General Clauses Act applications filed as ordinary should be treated as continuation of applications?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of law. I disallow that question.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us when this question of exempting court-fees will be decided?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Very shortly.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government is considering the desirability of issuing orders to all the officers concerned to reopen such applications as might have been rejected so far on the ground that the requisite process-fees or court-fees have not been paid?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: It will be most carefully considered by Government and necessary steps will be taken as soon as possible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government is also considering the desirability of refunding such court-fees as might have been paid thereon on a date subsequent to the 4th January, 1945, in case Government decides to exempt court-fees for such applications later on?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I submit that it is too hypothetical a question. Unless the question of exempting court-fees is decided it is not possible for me to say anything at this stage.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My question has been whether along with the question of exempting court-fees Government is also considering the desirability of refunding such court-fees, if any, which have been collected.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I have already stated that the question of exempting court-fees is still under consideration and after that has been decided this matter will be taken up.

Construction of footpaths on both sides of the line over the Railway bridge in the Chandpur town.

*216. **Maulvi JONAB ALI MAJUMDAR:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(i) that there is a Railway bridge in the port of the Chandpur town (Tippera) on Bengal and Assam Railway line within a few cubits from the platform of the Chandpur Kalibari railway station;

(ii) that the bridge has no footpath nor any kind of protection for the passengers who cross it; and

(iii) that many passengers and passersby have been falling victims to accidents by receiving mortal wounds by falling from this bridge generally in the night?

(*b*) Is it a fact that a passenger, one Maulvi Md. Idris of village Maramra, police-station Hajiganj, when attempting to get on board of a compartment of an up-train in the night has recently received a mortal wound by falling below this bridge?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of taking necessary steps by moving the Railway authorities for construction of footpaths on both sides of the line over the bridge with necessary protection to prevent further accidents of the above nature?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain): (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) I have no information.

(*b*) No report of such an accident was received by the Railway Administration.

(*c*) No. There is already a level crossing nearby with an approach road to the station and the provision of a footpath on the bridge will only lead to unauthorised ingress and egress to and from the station.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us whether on getting this question Government made an enquiry whether there was any fatal accident at Chandpur?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Yes, Government made enquiries.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this bridge is only 10 cubits in length?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I am not aware of it.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given that Government made enquiries, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay the report before the House?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Government is prepared to answer the question if a specific question is put.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether 100 people pass over this bridge every day?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I am not aware.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*b*) whether he is aware that the gentleman filed a petition before the Railway Station Master and he also filed a petition before the Subdivisional Officer and got himself admitted into the local hospital?

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot give any information to the House.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: I am asking for information. My question is whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that Maulvi Md. Idris informed the Station Master, filed a petition before the Subdivisional Officer and also got himself admitted into the local hosiptal.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: There is no such fact available in the file. There are only two cases reported from March, 1944, but they are not of the nature which the honourable member asked for.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to answer (*b*) a specific question was put that "Maulvi Md. Idris of village Maramra, police-station Hajiganj, when attempting to get on board of a compartment of an up-train in the night has recently received a mortal wound", etc. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government made any specific enquiries on this specific question. That is my question.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: We have no such information.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: I submitted this question for answering. My question is whether Government on getting this question have made any enquiries whatsoever on this question (*b*).

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Please refer to answer (*b*).

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please give us the result of the enquiry that he referred to in his answer just now?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: That is the result of the enquiry. No report of such an accident was received by the Railway Administration.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there are footpaths on both sides of the bridge?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I am not aware.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he received the question and when he received the answer from the Railway Administration

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise as a supplementary question.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: It does, Sir, in this way. The Hon'ble Minister did not make any enquiry at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter. Have you any specific question to put?.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Yes, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Minister please make an enquiry of the Railway Administration whether there are accidents annually and whether the grievances of the people are communicated to the Station Master, Chandpur?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: For the information of members I am reading this statement which I received from the Railway Administration. No report of such an accident was received. Instead from March up to date only the following two accidents, which according to police reports are attributed to ticketless passengers jumping from train in motion to prevent detection, have occurred. At 5 hours on the 28th April, 1944, after the departure of No. 506-Down train a dead body was found in the eastern side of the platform. The person could not be identified. Police reports suspect that the man had no ticket and jumped from the train when in motion to prevent detection. About the second incident we have got this report. At 8-30 hours on the 16th May 1944, a ticketless passenger while jumping down from No. 518 train before it came to a stand in order to prevent detection got injured. Police held the injured responsible. This much information I can give.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this Maulvi Md. Idris of Maramra was examined during the enquiry that Government held?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: There is no such information.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: On a point of order, Sir. These questions relate to the Railway Administration which are the concern of the Government of India. I do not see how the Government of Bengal is expected to answer these questions.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Why do you answer them then at all?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: These questions concern the Government of India, and the Government of Bengal is not responsible for bridges.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is well known that the Railway being a Central subject the Provincial Government is not responsible for every matter relating to railways, but there are certain matters wherein the Provincial Government and the people of the Provinces are interested and it has been the convention of the House all along, as far as I remember, that such questions are always answered by Government. Following that you have got to answer these questions.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: But, Sir, questions are being asked which concern directly the railways.

Mr. SPEAKER: If questions are asked which are not within the purview of the Provincial Government and if it is brought to my notice I shall certainly see whether it is allowable or not. If it is not allowable I will certainly not allow it; if it is allowable then it is open to you to give an answer or not to give an answer just as you like.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. The questions that were asked relate to accidents and not to the administration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Quite so.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the enquiry referred to in his answer took place before notice of this question had been received by him?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: After receipt of notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether an independent enquiry was held?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I want notice.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister make further enquiries if the allegations made here are correct and request the Central Government to construct footpaths over that particular bridge?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: If a fresh question is put Government will consider it.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer that an enquiry was held after receipt of this question, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for not examining Maulvi Md. Idris?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already said that Government called for a report from the railway administration.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Station Master is a member of the railway administration.

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow that question.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question was asked whether any enquiry was made. From the question it will be seen that he had received a mortal wound. How can there be then a reference to Maulvi Muhammad Idris?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: On a point of privilege, Sir. Some 10 or 12 days before we got information that the police of Jamalpur assaulted——

Mr. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. That is another matter again. Questions over.

Short-notice Question.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, we tabled a short notice question about the assault by police on some gentlemen at Jamalpur including Dr. Atindra Chandra Datta when he was returning from a Jatra performance with his family. We have not yet been informed whether Government will give any answer to that short notice question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will just look into the matter.

Message.

The Secretary then read the following message from the Bengal Legislative Council:—

"The Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 21st February, 1945, agreed to the Bengal Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1944, without amendment."

Arrangement for reporting Hindi speeches.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, you were pleased to assure us that today you would let us know your decision regarding the circular issued by Government and circularised to members about reporting of Hindi speeches in the Assembly. We were shocked to receive that kind of a circular. We could not conceive how you, anxious as you are to maintain the prestige of the House, could accept this position that any member who would like to speak here in Rashtra Bhasha will have to bring along with him a Reporter of his own and would obtain merely some faciltiy from Government of certain fees payable to that Reporter. May we know from whose fertile brain this suggestion had evolved? We submit, Sir, that it is something which is quite unthinkable, that in this land of ours we have to be told that speakers in the Assembly have got to pay for the reporting of their speeches here and would be paid some kind of compensation by Government that have themselves been spending crores of rupees in various other directions. I submit that this is a serious encroachment on the rights and privileges of the members of this House. We would like to have a definite ruling on that point because on that ruling will depend as to how we shall conduct ourselves in the House and what language we shall use in this legislature.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Sir, I should like to know whether any Rashtra Bhasha has been decided upon before introduction in this Assembly.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is painful for me to see that you have brought in the question of Rashtra Bhasha. We all know what Rashra Bhasha is. Indeed it is provided in the Statute itself. That is the language (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Of our shame and subjection) of a country, which is not our own language. But the Statute provides that the language is English and it gives right to the House to make a provision authorising the Speaker to allow persons to speak in a language other than the English language when any honourable member is not acquainted or not sufficiently acquainted to speak in the English language. So there is no question of Rashtra Bhasha here. That is clear. The point is, a direction was issued to the Assembly office saying that if any one is willing to speak in Hindi, he must comply with certain conditions. To my mind this direction is wholly misconceived. The Home Department has got no right to issue such direction. It is an encroachment on [illegible] and privileges of this House. The Speaker is certainly [illegible] to speak in a language other than the English language when the Speaker thinks that that honourable member is unacquainted or not sufficiently

acquainted with the English language to speak in that language. The question is the question of a provision for reporting the speeches delivered in a language other than English.

Now, we have certain Reporters—the English Reporters, and we have also certain Bengali Reporters kindly lent by the Home Department here. We have got various difficulties with regard to reporting itself, but it struck me as somewhat extraordinary when I got this direction; still I thought that it should be circulated to members. I have seen the circular, and I have passed an order to the effect that in the circular it should be noted that the matter is under correspondence with the Government. So I have taken up the matter and I propose to deal with the matter. I do not know whether the direction has come with the knowledge and consent of the Leader of the House. I shall have a talk with him and I shall see what can be done in this matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you, Sir.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

25—General Administration—General Administration.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,80,28,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration."

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Government's failure to facilitate attendance in the Assembly of those members who have been kept in detention without trial.

Sir, it is a cruel irony of fate that today when the Cabinet of Dr. Khan Saheb in the North-West Frontier Province is hammering open the jail gates, when in Assam Sj. Gopinath Bordoloi is dictating terms to a gasping Ministry, the term No. 1 being that the political prisoners must be released, when in Sind the Ministry on its own initiative is negotiating with the Opposition and assuring that members of the Assembly in detention would be released forthwith and without delay, in Bengal, day in and day out, we are breaking our heads against the stubborn jail gates and stone walls. Sir, not very many years ago it was said of Bengal that what Bengal thinks today the rest of India thinks tomorrow. But, Sir, the position, thanks to the British Imperialists and the reactionary policy of the Muslim League Ministry, has been reversed here. What the rest of India has begun to do from yesterday and day before yesterday, the retrograde Bengal Ministry cannot even think of doing today. Sir, the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin, when he assumed office, gave profuse assurances for releasing political prisoners *en masse*. And at that time he was not aware of the new theory that he had to propound the other day that releases are being held up on account of the connection of people with what he described as subversive organisation. Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has practically reversed the policy which he outlined at the inception of the office that he took and this he has to do because he cannot accommodate otherwise the unwilling white masters who are ruling the entire show. Sir, I could have understood Sir Nazimuddin telling frankly that releases are not being made because he is unable even if he is willing to effect releases. But instead of giving that honest confession, even though it would be a confession of failure, he treats the House and the public at large to an absurd theory that releases are not being made because of connection of persons with what he considers to be subversive organisations. Sir Nazimuddin had his probation in bureaucracy. He is not merely the show-boy of the white bureaucracy but he was also an apprentice for a long time in bureaucratic tables. Does he not know that ever since 1934 there has not been any

incident which can be connected with terrorist organisations or subversive movements. Does he not know that when he was the first Home Minister of Bengal, he had to implement the policy of releases because of the fact that terrorist organisations had liquidated themselves and there was no material even in the secret services of the Government which could justify the detention of persons who were originally suspected to be associated with subversive organisations. Sir, today to come out with this cock and bull story deceives nobody excepting Sir Nazimuddin himself. This is, however, a very wide matter and I would not take the time of the House by going into details.

But, Sir, the question before us which I have tried to precipitate, the question to which I have tried to draw the attention of the House is a simpler question, viz., the desirability for the attendance of members who are in detention without trial. Sir, this question can be approached from various standpoints.

First of all, I will deal with the question of privilege. We are here in this House for the last 8 years and we have from time to time been treated to what we do not understand the privileges of the members of this House. Sir, shall I take you back to the year 1939 when your predecessor in office Mr. Ashraf Ali of revered memory was the then Deputy Speaker. At that time the Privileges Bill of 1939 was circulated—practically introduced into this House—and a provision was made in this way. It is possible that a member's presence, even though he is under detention or imprisonment, may be necessary for the purpose of the Assembly and provision has therefore been made for bringing such member under proper escort before Mr. Speaker for such period as may be required for such special purposes and if considered necessary and desirable.

Sir, in 1939 this Bill was before the House with the consent of the then Government of which Sir Nazimuddin was the Home Minister at that time and when this matter was pending, a Committee of Privileges sat day in and day out—and Sir, I will give you the date—on the 21st November, 1940, a report of the Privileges Committee was circulated to this House in which it was recommended that a Privileges Bill be brought forthwith on the lines of the recommendations of the committee and that pending the final passing of the Bill into law, certain interim measures be adopted. One of those interim measures was on the lines as I have read out that whenever a member is taken into custody and his presence in the Assembly is considered necessary by the Speaker, he must be brought to the House and be permitted to take part in the proceedings of the Chamber. Sir, may I remind the House and the Hon'ble Home Minister that this was a committee which consisted of members of all parties and groups in this House and the report which was submitted and the recommendations which were made were unanimous so far as the committee was concerned. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that privilege is a sacred privilege which is available under section 71 of the Government of India Act and may I ask the Hon'ble Home Minister what stands in the way of implementing that recommendation today?

Sir, may I refer to the glorious instance at Burma where, when a similar motion was accepted in the House, a prisoner from custody was borught and was allowed to take part in the proceedings of the House. It was done not merely at the instance of the Opposition or out of respect for the desire of the Opposition, it was done because the members all thought it concerned the rights and privileges of the entire House and of each member of the Chamber.

(At this stage Mr. A. F. Stark was found consulting with the Chair.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want both yourself and the Whip of the European Party to attend to what I say.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are attending to you.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, apart from the question of privilege, there is the question of law, and I want the Chair to understand that this detention and prevention of the members from coming to the Assembly are infringement of the letter of the law and it is up to the Chair to take steps for meeting out an adequate remedy.

Sir, do you know that this House has to meet under the summons of the Governor under section 62 of the Government of India Act. This is the letter of the Secretary and the summons is like this:—

Dear Sir,

His Excellency the Governor has in exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (2) of section 62 of the Government of India Act, 1935, appointed Friday, the 16th February, 1945, at 4 p.m. as the time and the Assembly House, Calcutta, as the place for a meeting of the Bengal Legislative Assembly. I am directed to inform you accordingly and to desire your attendance."

Sir, this is addressed to every member of the House and under the law a Chamber cannot be summoned unless each member of the House is summoned individually and severally and, as a matter of fact, if you consult the office, you will find—your Secretary can tell you forthwith—that not only did he issue such summons to all members who are not in prison but he had also to issue such summons to each and every member of the Assembly who is in detention. The only difference is this. Whereas we have got it in our own private homes, the members in detention have got it through the Superintendent of the respective jails. Sir, this raises a question of law. The detention is by the Governor and in the name of the Governor. The same Governor asks for the attendance of the members who are in detention. What is the legal position? The legal position is clear that the later order must modify the earlier order and to the extent that the later order modifies the earlier order, it is not only up to the Government but it is obligatory on the part of the Government to see that the later order is respected and carried into effect; otherwise, Sir, what is the position? Here is the Governor who asks Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose to come to the Assembly; here is the Governor who asks Maulana Md. Maniruzzaman Islamabadi to come to the Assembly; here is the Governor's order asking Mr. Pratul Chandra Ganguli, Mr. Jnanendra Chandra Mazumdar, Babu Sibnath Banerji and other friends of the Opposition to come to the Assembly. Who stands between them? Sir, who stands between the Government and the sitting of the Assembly? It is the Home Department or the Jail Department. I submit, Sir, that on the one side the Governor is summoning; on the other side the members are willing to come. In between the two there is the obstruction by the Jails Department and the Home Department. Under the Indian Penal Code this Act on the part of the Home Department amounts to wrongful confinement and wrongful restraint. Sir, Mr. Speaker is not here. I would have made this personal appeal to the Speaker, but since you are here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also make a personal appeal to you that the Chair is the custodian of the rights and privileges of each member of this House and if you feel that here is a position in which a member has been summoned by the Governor but the attendance of that member is being prevented by a Department of Government, it is your clear duty to go to the High Court and bring in proceedings under Habeas Corpus, because the right and liberty of a citizen has been infringed. Not only that; the rights and liberty which are secured by the seal and sanction and warrant of the highest of the land are also infringed. Is it not your duty to go up to the High Court and secure a decision in this matter? Sir, I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to consult the legal position in this connection and to consult the Advocate-General. The matter is not going to be put to vote today, but before the matter is put to the vote tomorrow, if necessary, he can bring the Advocate-General who can address the House

and give legal opinion in this matter. After all, Sir, it is not merely an academic question. I will give you some concrete illustrations. In respect of some persons—I was one of them—Sj. Pratul Chandra Ganguly and Mr. Niharendu Datta Mazumdar—in respect of some of these detenus proceedings under Habeas Corpus were taken before the High Court. (At this stage the blue light was lit.) Sir, please do not flourish the light. This is a very serious matter and I will take half an hour more.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have no objection if you take half an hour or 40 minutes. You know that we have 17 or 18 motions and time should be adjusted in consultation with Whips of different parties.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We shall adjust our time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You must adjust the time in consultation with the Chief Whip and other Whips.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We shall not take more time than is allotted.

Sir, today some of the members are in this position. Tomorrow you may be in the same position, and the next day the other members may also be in the same position. This is a most momentous thing that has come up before the House and we must try to do justice in the matter.

Sir, do you remember that the High Court Judge gave an order that these persons in detention must be produced before the High Court in order to receive judgment. Could the Home Department or the Jails Department stand in the way? They could not. As a matter of fact, they had to produce and the persons were produced. Look at other similar cases. Supposing a man X is accused in two dacoity cases. One dacoity takes place before the other. Necessarily he gets conviction of seven years or so. He goes to the jail. Then the other case is taken up before the Judge and the Jury. Can anybody prevent the attendance of that person in the court room simply on the ground that he is already in detention and in imprisonment? So, if the mere fact of imprisonment in respect of other persons cannot stand in the way of their coming to the courts in answer to the summons of the Courts, I ask the Government to give a reply what legal impediment, I am not speaking of moral impediment, what legal impediment is there which stands in the way of the members detained coming to this Assembly? Sir, as I was submitting, it is a vital question of law and I want to hear not merely the opinion of the Chief Minister whom we do not expect to be very proficient in burning questions of law, but I would expect him to bring the Advocate-General, so that he may give his wisdom in this matter.

Then, Sir, apart from this question of law, there is the question of justice. I will quote the acknowledged practice and the previous liberal policy of this Government. If an M.L.A. who is in detention is very very seriously ill, and there is an order by the Government asking for removal of the prisoner to the Medical College Hospital, he will be removed. The fact that he was in detention will not stand in the way of his being removed to the Medical College Hospital. Supposing somebody is very seriously ill in the family of a detained M.L.A. According to the liberal policy of this Government there will be a direction that he be allowed leave for two or three days under escort to go and see his ailing relation. Sir, the previous detention is neither absolute nor never-ending. It must be read subject to subsequent orders which modify the previous orders to that extent at least for the time being, and that is because the exigency of the circumstances requires that such modifications should be effected. If these things can be done, is it not a case of higher justice that members who are being detained without trial, granting that they are detained for reasons of security, whatever may be the character of the security, is it not a case of higher justice that their detention should be adjusted with

the requirements of the House and of the larger public outside? Sir, it is not really a personal question.. They represent their constituencies who have the right to get themselves represented on the floor of this House. They are also representing their constituencies and they have got their right and duty to represent their constituencies as far as possible for them to do. Why should not the Government have the fairness to bring those people on the floor of this House for taking part in the deliberations? What will prevent a person who is convicted of dacoity from attending the court? He cannot be held back from the summons of the court merely on the plea that he will communicate with the lawyers and other persons in the court room. These detenue M.L.A.'s could not be prevented from appearing before the High Court where they could mix with the lawyers and friends freely because in the court room they are free to do so; and if nothing untoward happened by allowing them to be present in the court room, nothing will also happen by allowing them to come before the Assembly House. Probably Sir Nazimuddin thinks that they are dangerous people and if they come, they will have connection or communion with other members here. In the first place, we are prepared to concede so much as to say "bring them under fetters", keep them in a segregated room in this House, but do bring them at least for the sake of justice. And, Sir, what will be the harm? Is it not ridiculous that if these people will come and sow the seeds of discontent, it will not be possible for Government to counteract that? What will they do? Some of them are there for three years or five years. Is it the Government's case that from inside the jail they are in communication and touch with emissaries of Japan and Germany across the jail gates and jail walls? Is it their case that they will, after these five years of cold storage, come with heat and propagate and spread that heat on the floor of the House, so that other members will catch that infection? Or is it their case that they will receive messages from the floor of the House—messages which will mean connection with Japan and Germany,—or that when they would come back from inside the jail with messages they will propagate those messages on the floor of the House and from there they will have touch with Japan and Germany? What is your case? Why can't you bring them on the floor of the House and allow them to take part in the proceedings of this House? Sir, one good excuse with members of the Government was advanced like that but one cannot understand if Opposition members are held at bay like this. After all, what is democracy, Sir? Democracy is nothing but government by discussion, and unless the Opposition gets the fullest strength that it has at its command reflected on the floor of the House, democracy is defeated. Sir, you remember that when Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose was taken into custody he broke the previous Ministry although admittedly the Government party at that time was far more consolidated than it is today, and if these members are allowed to come here, by their very presence and by introducing a new tone and tenor into the debate of this House, by creating a disaffection amongst the members there is bound to be a change in course of a day or two and we suspect that these members are not allowed to come because Sir Nazimuddin is afraid that if they come and take part in the proceedings of this House, this discredited Ministry will go into pieces forthwith. Other members are not being released, and whatever Sir Nazimuddin may say, we think and we feel that in order to give a good colour of necessity and grounds of security they are being detained because these members have got to be detained. If the members are released the hollowness of their case will be exposed and therefore they are also detaining other members although security does not require that they should be detained. There is one argument that Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose and Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi are the clients of the Central Government. If you have read the newspapers of this morning you have seen that Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan was also a client of the Central Government but what did the Khan Sahib do? He released him and sent the matter for approval of the Central

Government. Don't you see and hear what Mr. Amery says and what the Home Member of the Government of India says? They say that every security prisoner is a responsibility of the provincial Government. Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose and Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi and the other persons they are all the care and responsibilty of this Provincial Government. A large number of persons have already sent a representation to the Chief Minister asking for attendance of these people and I am throwing out this challenge: when Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose comes to the floor of the House the Ministry will collapse in five minutes. He need not have to talk and speak. His presence will be enough. These black cats and black goats, Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami and Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain, who try to justify their conduct with the name of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose on their lips, if once Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose comes and takes part in the debate of this House, his mere presence will be enough and these black cats and black goats will crawl back to the back benches of the Opposition and this house of cards will fall instantly, and this reactionary, this characterless Ministry will fall never to rise again and Bengal will stand vindicated. We are throwing out this challenge. Will Government accept that? Let us wait and see.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the demand of Rs.1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by a sum of Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the withdrawal of the Government's ban on the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee and a large number of District and Subdivisional Congress Committees and the organisations and associations connected with the Congress and the All-India Spinners' Association and the Abhoy Asram.

Sir, if the question of release of members of this House who have been kept under detention under an ukase of the present gods is an important one, I submit that the question of withdrawing the ban on a number of associations of the people of Bengal is a much greater and a much more important question and that is a matter which stands practically at the foundation of all demand of democracy and freedom. It was a panicky Government that suddenly issued on the 9th of August, 1942, a number of orders under the Indian Criminal Law (Amendment) Act purported to dub some very good and healthy associations for the service of the people as unlawful associations within the meaning of the Indian Criminal Law (Amendment) Act. The first order was the order No. XII of 9th August, 1942, published in an extraordinary gazette declaring the Congress Working Committee as an unlawful association. The second order was one declaring the All-India Congress Committee as an unlawful association. The third order which quickly followed in succession, the numbers being consecutive, declared the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee as an unlawful association. The fourth order declared the premises used by the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee at that time, namely, No. 32, Upper Circular Road, Calcutta, as a place being used for and by an unlawful association. Sir, it was a time when for reasons best known to themselves the Government wanted to excite the people and I submit that it was this precipitate action on the part of the Government to provoke people in a most shameful manner that had resulted in certain excesses due to the abnormal exuberance of the people and the love that they bore for the organisations that were banned overnight by the Government of Bengal, probably at the dictation of the Government of India.

Sir, the history of the declaration of the Congress organisations in Bengal as unlawful appears to have had three different stages. The first stage was when without the slighest reason and provocation the Government of Bengal struck first and took action to declare all organisations higher and lower as unlaful associations. Under the Indian Criminal Law (Amendment) Act the unlawful association meant an association which

encourages or aids persons to commit acts of violence or intimidation or of which the members habitually commits such acts. Whatever might have been the Government's prepared case and defence at a later stage, it could never be conceived or thought of at that stage, at least on the 9th August, 1942, that the Congress as an organisation could by any stretch of imagination come within the mischief of this definition of an unlawful association. That was the first stage. The second stage appears to have come when as a result of the action taken by Government in the first stage people in certain areas got legitimately excited and also as a result of repressive and oppressive measures taken by Government officials in certain localities there was a certain commotion from the popular side as well. The second series of orders then ensued beginning first with the district of Midnapore where all the Congress Committees and Congress organisations were declared unlawful associations early in October, 1942. The usual formula for such declarations was not any specific statement of the case against the associations and committees but a general repetition of the section of the Act, viz., "whereas in the opinion of the Governor the committees and associations in the district of Midnapore specified in the schedule below have for their object interference with the administration of law and maintenance of law and order and constitute a danger to the public peace, now therefore in exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (*1*) of section 16 of the Indian Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908, the Governor is pleased to declare the said committees and associations to be unlawful associations within the meaning of Part II of the Indian Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908, etc." This pleasure of the Governor of Bengal followed because there was ostensibly certain commotion as a result of Government's own striking and represessive measures first. That was the second stage. Quickly, Sir, followed orders on various other organisations apart from the Congress organisations the names whereof would reveal that they were not necessarily conducted by official Congress committees, organisations like national schools, organisations like Tarun Sangha and also organisations meant genuinely to advance the production of hand-spun yarn and handloom woven cloth.

Sir, the next district that was honoured was Malda district where in November, 1942, the All-India Spinners Association and all branches thereof in that district were declared unlawful. Quickly followed thereafter the Birbhum district. Then came the chance of Dacca district. Tippera district followed thereafter and Noakhali soon after the same. Jessore had its luck in January, 1943, and Bankura towards the third week of January. This was a stage when each and every individual committee was mentioned and orders were being issued declaring such organisations and committees as unlawful. Thereafter Government suddenly changed their tactics. They began from the middle of January, 1943, onwards to issue a sort of general order quoting that whereas the All-India Congress Committee had been declared an unlawful association and certain other organisations and committees were in the opinion of Government likely to act on behalf of that All-India Congress Committee, they were to be treated as unlawful associations as well and it was not necessary for Government any more to declare each and every association as unlawful but they merely declared certain places as places purported to be used for work of unlawful associations. That was the third stage. The first stage was when on the 9th August a peremptory order was issued. The second stage was when each and every district committee or series of associations and organisations in the district were declared unlawful associations. The third stage was when the All-India Congress Committee having been declared an unlawful association earlier, their premises which were likely to be utilised by certain organisations, associations and committees for the purposes of the All-India Congress Committee were declared as places likely to be used for an unlawful association. This went on right up to the end of March, 1943.

Sir, I do not like to dilate long on the justice or otherwise of specific orders on a particular committee where the Government might have certain reasons, although we do not find any evidence thereof, to conclude that such committee or association was likely to take action endangering the peace of the country. I say that the peremptory orders and the subsequent orders following the first peremptory orders were wholly unjustified, illegal and without the slightest logic or sense behind them. Even so, surely the Government of Sir Nazimuddin, a diehard Government that it is, also cannot claim that public opinion need be strangled for all time to come and we would like to claim that these committees, organisations and associations be now released from the ban and allowed to function properly, openly and in the service of the people. I claim this because there is definitely a sign throughout India of Congress coming into position and of love, respect and power which the Congress always commanded with the people. It is coming also to be recognised now by the authorities both in India as well as in Britain.

The Congress committees in Bengal have had rather a difficult and interesting part to perform during the famine of 1943 and 1944. The Government officials of each area officially invited local Congressmen as Congressmen and also as individuals, knowing fully well that they were acting on behalf of the Congress, to associate with them and assist them in various ways in the distribution of relief and in the determination of the policy of rehabilitation and reconstruction. Would it surprise you, Sir, to know that even the other day the President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee, supposed to be an unlawful association, got an invitation from no less an authority than the Fort William of Bengal to assist in certain discussions regarding the next war which probably the British Government is now visualising not this war but the next war which will come later on. That being the position, that being the state of affairs, that the Congress is not only alive in the minds of the people of Bengal and India but the Congress is also very much alive even in the minds and counsels of the authorities of Bengal, of India and of Britain, may I know, Sir, what earthly justification could there be in retaining this technical difficulty and bar in the way of Congress committees functioning properly and openly?

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

May I have five minutes more? In that case the House may be adjourned now and I will resume after the adjournment.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Congress has lived in the heart of the people not because it was considered by any Government either safe or unsafe but because of its service in the cause of freedom of the people of India. The Congress shall not die even if the worst bureaucracy makes attempts 100 times unless and until the independence of India is won. And whatever may be the temporary stage of imprisonment that a particular Government may attempt to keep the Congress in, even that Government cannot ignore the existence of millions of our countrymen determined to fight for the independence of India under the banner of the Congress. What then is the use of this sham and this fate of keeping the Congress organisations banned? The only net result of all this is that where the organisations and associations could function freely and openly under the very eyes of Government they would necessarily have to function and work away from the eyes of the bureaucracy. That is neither helpful for Government nor probably healthy in the cause of civil liberties of the people. What then is the object of continuing this notification which were issued under a panic and even when, as admitted

by Government themselves, the circumstances have changed very considerably? As has been noted by my predecessor, the previous speaker, signs are there for the Congress to come even to effective office. In the N. W. Frontier Province, the Congress ministry has been installed. In Assam the Muslam League Ministry is seeking terms with the Congress to save itself from disaster. The Ministry in Sind is also prepared to adjust itself to the demand of the Congress. And, Sir, if I am not giving out any secrets I might even state that the Government of Sir Nazimuddin was at least at one stage quite anxious to meet the demand of the Congress for release of political prisoners and for maintaining civil liberties in the province before it was installed in the gadi by a certain gracious act of a previous Governor. The Congress Committees have been banned, but Congress organisations in the districts have been asked to assist local officials in the Food Committees in the District organisations for various kinds of maintaining supplies and maintenance of good relations between the communities even in Calcutta in the civil defence work, in A.R.P. organisations and the like the association of the Congress was sought by Government.

This being the position, Sir, I submit there cannot be the slightest justification for continuing the present bans. The Congress is alive, the Congress will soon be kicking. I ask the Government to take note of the signs of the times. If they want to adjust themselves yet to the new signs of the times, it is up to them to take action immediately and not to give further provocations to the people of Bengal. I demand that the Congress committees be permitted to function freely and openly as has been their rightful claim, and I maintain that whatever may be the Government attitude the Congress is alive, will remain alive and shall obtain the freedom of India whether it is the desire of Sir Nazimuddin's Government or not. (Applause.)

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about promulgation of section 144, Cr. P. C., to ban the last Durga Puja ceremony at Sandwip in the district of Noakhali and immersion ceremonies at Metiabruz.

বাংলার কবি একদিন মনের খেদে এই গান গেয়েছিলেন, "না হইতে মা-গো বোধন তোমার ভাঙ্গিল কেমন বল ঘট"। নোয়াখালি, সন্দীপের এই ব্যাপারে আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি যে বোধন হওয়ার পর নোয়াখালির District Magistrate যখন সেই সন্দীপের কালী বাড়ীতে হিন্দুগণ পূজার জন্য সমবেত তখন ১৪৪ ধারার একটি হুকুম দিয়ে সেই পূজা বন্ধ করে দিলেন। হুকুমটা হচ্ছে এই:

"Whereas it is made to appear to me that you and a number of other persons who are members of the Sarbojanin Durga Puja Committee and Kalibari Committee are about to meet and perform the worship of Goddess Durga within the local Kalibari premises at Harishpur, police-station Sandwip, and such worship with music and beat of drums is likely to wound the religious feeling of the local Muslims offering prayer in the Jumma Masjid close to it in violation of the agreement previously arrived at between the two communities and an order of the District Magistrate duly communicated and that such worship in the aforesaid place having no tradition in the past is likely to lead to disturbances of the public transquillity or a riot or an affray I do hereby prohibit the Durga Puja being performed in the aforesaid premises and strictly warn and enjoin you not to take any part in such worship thereon".

Magistrate সাহেব এই order টা যে দিলেন যে একটা চুক্তি অনুযায়ী তা-সম্পর্কে বিধা। কি চুক্তিতে তা আমি দেখাচ্ছি। মাজিষ্ট্রেট বলেছেন যে হিন্দু এবং মুসলমান দিবে যে চুক্তি করেছিল এই পূজার সেই চুক্তি তা হচ্ছে এটি সম্পর্কে বিধা। হিন্দু এবং মুসলমান একমিত হবে ১৯২৭ খৃঃ একটি চুক্তি করেছিল, সে চুক্তিটা হিন্দু মন্দিরের সামনে গান বাজনা নিয়ে procession করা সম্বন্ধে এবং সে-চুক্তিটা ছিল এই:

Procession with music before the mosque will pass beyond prayer hours without any interruption and if processions are to pass the mosque during prayer hours music has to stop within twenty-four yards of the mosque.

এই চুক্তি হিন্দু আর মুসলমানে একত্রে করেছিল এবং ১৯৪৩ খৃঃ পর্য্যন্ত এই চুক্তির বলে সেখানে হিন্দু-মুসলমানে কোন গণ্ডগোল হয়নি। শুধু ১৯৪৩ নয়, ১৯৪৪ সনেও এই পূজার orderএর আগে পর্য্যন্ত যত শোভাযাত্রা হয়েছে, হিন্দু-মুসলমানের এই চুক্তি অনুসারেই তা হয়েছে। কোন সম্প্রদায়ের নিজের ধর্ম্মকে ক্ষুণ্ণ করে চুক্তি করা তার পক্ষে সঙ্গত কি-না আমি সে প্রশ্ন আনছি না। কিন্তু যে চুক্তি করা হয়েছিল সেই অনুসারে হিন্দু এবং মুসলমানের মধ্যে সম্প্রীতি আজও পর্য্যন্ত সেখানে বজায় আছে। কোনদিন এ চুক্তি হিন্দু-মুসলমানে হয়নি যে কালী বাড়ীতে হিন্দুরা দুর্গাপূজা করতে পারবে না এবং করবে না। কাজেই যে কথাটার উপর ভিত্তি করে order দিচ্ছেন সেটা সর্ব্বৈব মিথ্যা। আমরা দেখেছি ১৯৪৩ খৃঃ, ১৭ই অক্টোবর তারিখে তখনকার ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট R. W. Bastin হিন্দু-মুসলমানের চুক্তিকে স্বীকার করে নিয়েছেন। তার ঠিক ৫ মাস পরে এই ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট সাহেব তিনি একটা নূতন modification করেছিলেন যে কোন সময়ই হিন্দুরা গান-বাদ্য নিয়ে মসজিদের ৫০ গজের মধ্যে যেতে পারবে না। হিন্দু-মুসলমানের চুক্তিকে পদদলিত করে, সেই চুক্তিকে একেবারে ব্যর্থ করার জন্য ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট সাহেবের এটা সয়তানী চাল। এ ব্যাপারে হিন্দু নেই মুসলমান নেই। ভবিষ্যতে হিন্দু-মুসলমানে মিলেমিশে যে চুক্তি করবে সেই পথে বাধার সৃষ্টির জন্য এই Bastin সাহেব এই উপায়টা উদ্ভাবন করলেন। আমরা জানি রাজনৈতিক ক্ষেত্রেও যখন Allahabadএ Unity Conferenceএ হিন্দু-মুসলমানে চুক্তি হয়েছিল তখন Sir Samuel Hoare সেই চুক্তিকে পণ্ড করার জন্য নূতন একটি হুকুমনামা জারি করেছিলেন, ঠিক সেই policyই adopt করে, যাতে হিন্দু-মুসলমানে কোন সময়ই মিলেমিশে কোন চুক্তি না হতে পারে, চিরদিনই তারা ঝগড়া করে। সেই প্রকার দুষ্টবুদ্ধিপ্রণোদিত হয়ে Bastin সাহেব এই কাজটা করেছিলেন, কিন্তু সেখানেও কালী বাড়ীতে পূজা হতে পারবে না একথা কখনও ছিল না। তারপর দ্বিতীয় কথাটা হলো এই যে সেখানে গানবাদ্য হলে, সেই মসজিদে মুসলমানদের ধর্ম্মে আঘাত লাগবে। সেই কালী বাড়ীতে প্রতিদিন কালীপূজা হয় গানবাদ্য নিয়ে; বাদ্যোদ্যমে প্রতিদিন সন্ধ্যার সময় দীর্ঘকালব্যাপী আরতি সেখানে চলতে থাকে ঘণ্টার পর ঘণ্টা। আজ পর্য্যন্ত কোন মুসলমান আপত্তি করেনি যে আমাদের ধর্ম্মে আঘাত লাগছে তোমরা কালীপূজা কোরো না। কোথা থেকে আপত্তির সৃষ্টি হোলো? তিনদিন হিন্দুরা সেখানে দুর্গা-পূজা করবে, সেখানেই আপত্তিটা গজিয়ে উঠলো? সুতরাং সব জায়গায় কালী বাড়ীতে সার্ব্বজনীন পূজা হয়। মুসলমানের religious feeling wound করার কথাটা সর্ব্বৈব মিথ্যা; তার কারণ সেই কালী বাড়ীতে আজও পূজা হচ্চে বাদ্যোদ্যম সহকারে প্রতিদিন। কাজেই মুসলমানের সে আপত্তির কথা সত্য কি? তাদের religious feeling wound করেছে বা না করেছে সে প্রশ্ন আমি তুলছি না; এবং যদি একথা সত্য হতো ও আমি বিশ্বাস করি মুসলমান এত নীচে এখনো নেমে যায়নি,—আমাদের লীগের মুসলমান দেখেই সব মুসলমানদের বোঝার অধিকার আমাদের নাই,—যে তারা অপর সম্প্রদায় নিজের ধর্ম্ম উপাসনা নিজের বাড়ীতে করবে আর তাই নিয়ে হৈ হল্লা করে তার সঙ্গে ঝগড়া করবে। লীগের মুসলমান সেই স্তরে নেমে যেতে পারে, কিন্তু মুসলমান সমাজ নামে নাই। কিন্তু আসল কথাটি গোড়ায় কথাটি হচ্চে এই যে সার্ব্বজনীন দুর্গোৎসব হচ্চে; সমস্ত হিন্দু, সমস্ত সম্প্রদায় মিলিত হয়ে দুর্গোৎসব করছে। এটা অসহ্য বোধ হয়েছিল আমাদের এই লীগের একজন Parliamentary Secretaryর, আবদুল মজিদ সাহেবের, এবং তিনি যেয়ে Magistrateকে দিয়ে এই কাজটি করিয়েছেন এখন আপনারা বলবেন যে তার কথায় Magistrate ওঠেন বসেন কেন? এ লীগ Governmentএর আমলে যেখানে যে কোন Magistrate আছেন, হিন্দু হোক মুসলমান হোক, ভয়ে ভয়ে থাকতে হয়। আপনারা জানেন, কেণীর সেই মুসলমান Deputyর কথা, এদের কথা অনুসারে চলেনি বলে telegraphic order দিয়ে তাকে transfer করে দেওয়া হয়েছিল। কাজেই তিনি ভয়েতে পড়ে করেছেন। তিনি ঘটিয়ার deputy। আপনারা হয়ত বলবেন যে, তার নামটা ত হিন্দুর নাম। হিন্দুর নাম থাকলে কি হয়; আপনারা জানেন যে কসাইখানা থেকে যে গো-মাংস নিয়ে যায়, সে গরুতেই বহন করে চাবুকের ভয়ে। (Hear, hear) ঠিক এমনি-ভাবেই এই League Ministryর চাবুকের ভয়েতে সে এই গরুর মাংস বহন করেছে। Orderটা সে দিয়েছে চাকরীর ভয়ে। আমি আজ জানাতে চাই যে এই orderটি দিয়ে হিন্দুর নাগরিক অধিকারকে ক্ষুণ্ণ করা হয়েছে, হিন্দুর ধর্ম্মাধিকারকে ক্ষুণ্ণ করা হয়েছে। আশুতোষ লাহিড়ী মহাশয় একটি প্রশ্ন দিয়েছিলেন যে বোধনের পরে orderটা দেওয়া হয়েছে কেন। তখন মন্ত্রী মহাশয় উত্তর দিয়েছেন যে বোধন হয়নি, তার কারণ পরের দিনও ঠাকুরের মুখ দেওয়া হচ্ছিল। আমি জানি না যে একথাটা তাঁরা কার কাছ থেকে পেয়েছেন;

হয়ত এই ষষ্ঠিরাম ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের কাছ থেকেই পেয়েছেন। তার কারণ যাঁরা সামান্য একটু হিন্দুর পূজা-পার্বণের কথা অবগত আছেন তাঁরা জানেন যে ষষ্ঠির দিন বোধন হয় এবং সপ্তমীর দিনে চক্ষুদানের কতখানি রং চোখে দিতে হয় পরের দিন। আগের দিন দিলে সিদ্ধ হয় না। এই হোলো নিয়ম। সেই কতটুকু painting পরের দিনের জন্য রেখে দিতে হয়। যেহেতু পরের দিন painting হয়েছিল অতএব বোধন হয়নি। কাজেই এই যে কথাটা সর্বৈব মিথ্যার উপর ভিত্তি করে বলা হয়েছে। সমগ্র হিন্দু জাতির ধর্মাধিকারকে পদদলিত করে এই যে আদেশ জারি করেছে আমি অত্যন্ত দুঃখিত যে সে জায়গার হিন্দু অধিবাসিগণ এই আদেশকে টুকরো টুকরো করে পদদলিত করেনি কেন। কেন তারা নিজেদের বুকের রক্ত দিয়ে মায়ের পূজাকে সার্থক করেনি, এবং প্রয়োজন হ'লে যে পশু এই আদেশ করেছে সেই পশুর রক্ত দিয়েও মায়ের চরণকে রঞ্জিত করেনি? এত বড় অত্যাচার! আমি বিশ্বাস করি যাদের ধর্মে বিন্দুমাত্র শ্রদ্ধা আছে, হিন্দু হোক মুসলমান হোক্ সে আদেশ মানবে না। আজ যদি মুসলমানের ধর্মের উপর এমনিভাবে হস্তক্ষেপ করা হত আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি, সে Government ই করুক আর যেই করুক, এমন ধর্মপ্রাণ মুসলমান কে আছে যে নির্বিবাদে এই আদেশকে মাথা পেতে নেবে। ঠিক এমনিভাবে আজ এই হিন্দুর উপর অত্যাচার হচ্ছে। আমি Government এর কাছ থেকে জানতে চাই যে তাঁরা এটা সমর্থন করেন কি না। যদি এই প্রশ্নে তাঁরা চুপ করে থাকেন বুঝবো তাঁরা সমর্থন করেন। কিন্তু তাঁদের জানিয়ে দিচ্ছি যে হিন্দু আজ অধঃপতিত, লাঞ্ছিত, ধর্মবিবর্জিত বটে, কিন্তু চিরদিন এভাবে থাকবে না। তাদের জানিয়ে দিচ্ছি যে হিন্দু আবার জাগ্‌ছে। এখন তাঁরা অত্যাচার করতে পারেন, অবিচার করতে পারেন, কিন্তু দূরে নয় সেদিন যেদিন এর অবসান হবে;

"তিষ্ঠ তিষ্ঠ ক্ষণম মূঢ়মাবন্মুধুপিপাসয়াহম"।

Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the mal-administration of the executive officers.

Maladministration, the subject of my discussion, is a very big one. It requires a sufficient time to elaborately discuss it in all details but the time-limit at my disposal is very, very short. So I shall not be able to do justice to it. However, I shall touch on some important factors only.

Nepotism, favouritism, corruption and jobbery are the main and fundamental causes of mal-administration during the regime of the present Ministry. I. C. S. officers were called by the British Cabinet as "steel frame" and really they were worth the name formerly. But now they have been found dishonest, insincere and incompetent. Some of them have been removed from their services by His Majesty the King Emperor of India for their nefarious action. Some of them are still entangled with corruption and bribery.

The present Ministry is a communal one. It always tries to put in charge of important districts and subdivisions Muslim I.C.S. and B.C.S. officers to satisfy the unreasonable cry of the Muslim League party regardless of the fact whether they are competent or not. When suitable Muslim officers are not available some Muslim officers of the lower rank are promoted in supersession of other highly qualified officers and are placed in charge of important headquarters. The result is that jealousy begins among the brother officers and they do not work with so much zeal and ardour as they did formerly. I do not find any reason why a Muslim officer should be posted where Muslim people preponderates. Is it because they are more sympathetic and partial to their own people? Is it because the interest of the Muslims in their opinion is not safe and sound at the hands of other officers? If it is the attitude and policy of the present Ministry, then it should be given up all at once. It is a thing for utter condemnation. If such be the case with them how can we then think that our interests are safeguarded at the hands of the Muslim officers. Officers should always be officers. They should rise to the occasion. There should not be any room for meanness. If any officer is found biased and partial drastic action should be taken against him. But it is found often under this Ministry that instead of taking any action, the particular officer if he

happens to be a Muslim, he is rather encouraged and given a lift. The effect is that the standard of the Government officers is not kept up and a general view among the Muslim officers is now current that "even if they commit seven murders they will be forgiven". Unless this idea is banished from the minds of the Muslim officers in near future the mal-administration now prevalent will destroy the very foundation of the good government in the country. Some raw and inexperienced I.C.S. and B.C.S. officers are often placed in charge of important districts and subdivisions as well as in important departments of Government. We do not question their ability and merit as good students or scholars and we do also maintain that they may be best students of the best Universities of the world. But it does not follow that they must necessarily be good officers all at once. Such officers although they are really inefficient pose themselves as omniscient and are powerful and manage their business being indifferent to other opinions and valuable suggestions of the experienced and learned people. Please take the case of Civil Supplies Department. There are so many I.C.S. and B.C.S. officers serving in the various sections of the above Department. Has any one of them got any practical training whatsoever in trade and business. Certainly not. In spite of the very fact that much money is being drained out annually, there is no satisfactory solution of the problem. Why is this? The reason is not far to seek. There is a great dearth of expert officers in the Department. Those who are in office, have no regard for public opinion and are quite indifferent to valued suggestions and practical advice of the public. They only consult with their sycophants and satellites in their matters of administration whom they regard as their best advisors and favourites who generally mislead them but scarcely lead them to destination This is the state of administration in the country.

There are District and Subdivisional Food Committees all over Bengal. Do the executive officers really consult with the members of those committees in times of necessity? These are merely farces. If the present Ministry is desirous of removing mal-administration from the province they must be rest assured that unless they co-operate with the public and ask their officers to co-operate and co-ordinate with them there is no hope for good administration With these few words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

(When item No. 57 was called.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I have your permission, Sir, to move this motion, which has been tabled in your name We have selected this motion because it raises a very im[illegible] but now that unfortunately you are elevated to the Chair it is only fair that somebody on this side of the House should be permitted to move this motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak on my motion but it will be treated as your motion.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: How can that be done Sir? A member is not allowed to move any other member's motion. Is it permissible for any other member to move a motion standing in the name of a member who is personally present in the House?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali has raised a very pertinent point. But yesterday I allowed members to move certain motions not standing in their names, and I thought there would be no objection to this procedure from any side. Now, if there is any objection certainly I will reconsider the position.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If he objects, Sir, then we shall submit that you do vacate the Chair and come here.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy of the Krishak Proja Party is not present in the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We humbly submit that you do adjourn the House and come here.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 57 is held over. Let us proceed with other items. I shall decide the matter later on in consulation with the leaders of different parties.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. If there is precedent where you have allowed other members to move motions not tabled in their names, why do you feel embarrassed in this matter on this occasion?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: My point is that he is present in the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He is not present as a member of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are correct. I know of some instances in which the Deputy President of the Central Legislative Assembly temporarily vacated the Chair and moved motions standing in his name. I can also do so even today, but I will take some time to consult leaders of different parties and decide this matter. In the meantime let us proceed with other motions. Item No. 57 is held over.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There will be no objection if a member from the Panel of Chairman is requested to preside and you come here and move the motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He cannot come. According to the Government of India Act, if he is personally present in the House, nobody else can occupy the Chair.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. If Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy expreses his particular desire and he wants to move the motion then and then only the question arises whether he would vacate the Chair and then come to move it. If it is a question of the motion being moved then the test is clear, namely that if the member in whose name the motion stands is unable to move it anybody of the party will be allowed to move it. So if you have any particular desire to move this because you may have various facts to place before the House and you may want to make a fighting speech—then you may consider the question of vacating, coming here and speaking. But if this is only a question of the motion being moved then there is no other alternative than to ask somebody or to give permission to somebody of the Party to move it. There is no question of waiting for any decision because the position is very clear.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sanyal, I will ~~not give any ruling~~ just at present. As I have stated before, this item is held over for some time because discussion will continue today and half of the next day. I shall give my decision later on. Let us in the meantime proceed with other items.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: We are not objecting for mere objection's sake. Some time tomorrow when Mr. Speaker is personally present we may take it out of turn and you can move this motion when the Speaker is in the Chair.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that this motion is held over.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to recruit a sufficient number of Provincial Civil Service Officers from within the province and about the policy to import Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Deputy Magistrates from outside the province.

Sir, during 1943 and 1944, a large number of Provincial Civil Service officers were imported from outside the Province, besides officers of I.C.S. rank, and they have been brought on a much higher pay than what is being paid to the Bengal officers of the same rank. Sir, I must condemn this policy. It is an admission that Bengal is unable to produce capable men in adequate numbers to meet her own internal requirements, that she cannot even find men of proper efficiency for carrying on the sort of administrative duties entrusted to these outside officers.

Sir, I could understand if these officers imported from the Provinces had been noted for any specialised knowledge or administrative work, most of them, as I learn, are ordinary officers, and have no special experience to their credit. Sir, in the extraordinary situation with which every Province was, more or less, confronted in the years 1943 and 1944, there was unusual demand for efficient officers in every Province, and the officers that were sent out to Bengal by the other Provinces, were naturally those who were men of average capabilities.

Sir, this has been a serious reflection on the reputation of this province. Sir, I have to go out to other provinces from time to time, and I have found that there is a general impression in other provinces that Bengal is so deficient in capable men that she has to rely on other provinces even for carrying on her ordinary administrative functions. Sir, Bengal has fallen low in the estimation of the rest of India by virtue of this policy. Do our Ministers realise how they have helped to drag down Bengal and compromise her reputation.

Sir, there is no dearth of capable men in the Province. Amongst school teachers, amongst professors, amongst lawyers, plenty of qualified and competent men were easily available. Sir, hundreds amongst these classes were starving and yet they were deprived of these new careers that were justly their due. Sir, I would like to know why the demand for additional officers was not met from internal recruitment.

Sir, for a time, a very restricted number of lawyer Magistrates were recruited. Why more were not taken in? Sir, in reply to a question of mine, the Hon'ble Minister stated that the Public Services Commission recommended about 170 lawyers for recruitment as lawyer-Magistrates but the Ministry gave appointment only to 65 of them. Why the rest were left out? Sir, I am told that they were not appointed, as Communal Ratio Rules could not be complied with, as adequate number of qualified Moslems were not available.

Sir, this means that a large number of Hindus were precluded from the benefits of these new opportunities of service, simply because Muslim candidates were not forthcoming. I think, Sir, nothing can be more condemnable, more reprehensible than this. You will not recruit efficient Hindus from this Province because you cannot get equally efficient Muslims; and you apply to the other Provinces where such Muslim officers are available. It is this shortsighted, this vicious policy of communalism that has been in a large measure responsible for breeding and promoting corruption in the public administration of this Province.

Sir, I presume the Minister will take up the plea that what the Province required was experienced officers. Even this plea is not tenable. Sir, there are yet a large number of retired B.C.S. officials in this province whose services have not been requisitioned and who could have been usefully re-employed. Many of them are yet fit for active service but strangely

enough, they were not called in. Here again the Communal Ratio Rules stood in the way. Had they been recalled, Hindu officers would have outnumbered the Muslims and this the present Ministry is not prepared to tolerate.

Sir, the Ministry has also imported a large number of I.C.S. officers from other provinces and also a good number from the Military Department. We have been told that about sixty military officers have been absorbed into the Indian Civil Service in Bengal of whom 45 are Europeans. We do not know the number of I.C.S. officers imported from other provinces. Sir, I know some of these I.C.S. men have been placed in charge of districts and subdivisions. Some of them are raw recruits to the I.C.S. and have no administrative experience whatsoever. How could such inexperienced men tackle various intricate problems that confronted the province in the emergencies of 1943 and 1944. Besides, they were absolutely new to the province and were not conversant with the habits and conditions of the people. How could such new men unacquainted with the peculiar conditions of the province be expected to do justice to their duties? I think, Sir, the importation of these I.C.S. men with the possible exception of a few, has not served the true interests of the province and did, in fact, complicate problems of administration. They had to rely inevitably on the advice of their subordinate officers, and in many cases, on the shining lights of the Muslim League in the districts which could not but promote corruption and maladministration. I hope, Sir, the Ministry will take early steps to get rid of these outside officers, will look within the province for recruitment of competent men and will not grudge even if it meant the sacrifice of Communal Ratio Rules

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I have your permission to move motion No. 57 which was tabled in the name of Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy, the Deputy Speaker and for which at his request I have been asked to seek your permission to move, because for technical reasons he cannot move it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand there was some talk on this matter. The Deputy Speaker has already allowed you to move. So no further ruling is necessary.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I object because the member in whose name the motion stands was present in this House So permission should not be given.

Mr. SPEAKER: Strictly speaking my own idea is that Speaker and Deputy Speaker should not belong to any party at all. This is my own conviction. The Deputy Speaker has been treated as a non-entity all along. Therefore, he has nowhere any place. He is neither here nor there. This has been the position so long. Sometimes he sends in motions which are admitted. I do not know whether he is allowed to move any motion. The position is anomalous and requires clarification and final decision. Pending final decision I have asked Mr. Hashemy not to do all these things and he has agreed that until these things are decided upon, he will not move cut motions, but at the same time while in the Chair he has allowed some member of the House to move this motion. If that is so, I cannot and should not alter his decision.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, he did not give any ruling. He said that this would be held over and he would give his ruling later on. I rose on a point of order. He has kept the matter pending and promised to give a ruling later on. He has not given any direction.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, a technical objection was raised by Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali that as Mr. Hashemy was present in the House, whether, in the Chair or not, another member could

not be allowed to move his cut motion, but the technical objection has been answered by his technical absence now and another member can be permitted to move his motion.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I object to this on two grounds. Apart from the question of Deputy Speaker's giving any ruling or not, I also object to Dr. Sanyal moving the motion standing in the name of Mr. Hashemy on this ground that Mr. Hashemy belongs to the Krishak Proja Party and if a member from that party rises to move his motion, we will not object, but Dr. Sanyal belongs to a different party, and as such he cannot claim to have that privilege. He cannot say that even if a member belonging to some other party has tabled the motion, he will move it. If the motion is moved by a member of the Krishak Proja Party, then we have no objection.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is a matter between different parties of the Opposition. If the Krishak Proja Party do not object, why do you?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That will create a bad precedent. Supposing a motion stands in the name of one member of Government Party and that member happens to be absent, Dr. Sanyal can claim and say "I shall move that motion". Sir, a line must be drawn somewhere. When in this House we have different parties and we are disciplined parties and groups, we must follow a certain convention, and if a motion has been tabled on behalf of a certain party, it is up to a member of that party to move that motion and it should not and it will not be up to a member of another party to move that motion. And I hope you will give your ruling on this point.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Sir, in the absence of any definite permission from the Deputy Speaker to move the motion on his behalf, it is for you to decide whether you can allow the motion to be moved. Mr. Deputy Speaker did not allow any member to move his motion and he said that "this motion be held over and I will give my ruling tomorrow".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the point was this I had actually been permitted, and when I got up to speak this objection was raised. Then he said, "So far as this objection is concerned, I will consider". Mr Deputy Speaker was present in the Chair and he said: "I shall hold it over and decide later on".

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Sir, when Mr. Deputy Speaker gave his ruling, Dr. Sanyal was not in the chamber, he was outside.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a small matter. The real point is, the question arises for consideration as to whether Mr. Deputy Speaker would be allowed to move his cut motion. That is a matter about which I have already said something.

Now, the next point is whether this motion should be allowed to be moved by anybody—by the Deputy Speaker or by a member of the party to which he originally belonged, even if it be now assumed that he belongs to no party. Now, the question is, if a convention had already grown up to the effect that nobody belonging to a different party should be allowed to move a motion standing in the name of a member belonging to another party, certainly I ought not to go against that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, only two days ago Mr. Maqbul Hossain's motion was moved by another member.

Mr. SPEAKER: But if there be no such convention, the general principle appears to me to be that once a matter is before the House it is the property of the House, and even if there be a motion tabled by the

Government party and if the Opposition say that they are going to move it if the Government party does not move it, then on principle it does not appear that there can be any objection. That is my own opinion. Of course, I do not give my final decision upon it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, on one occasion the European party did not like to move a motion tabled by them and we moved that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Apart from that, I understand that only yesterday a motion standing in the name of some member was allowed to be moved by some other member.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, if I had been there, I would have raised objection.

Mr. SPEAKER: If I understand that there was inclination at least of the Deputy Speaker who was then in the Chair to allow Dr. Sanyal to move it, there is no bar to allowing him to move.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: On a point of order, Sir. The usual procedure that you have followed so far is that when two or more motions stand in the name of one member and he has already moved a motion and spoken on the subject he is not allowed to move and speak again. And that saves the time of the House. Now, Dr. Sanyal had already moved a motion and had spoken on the subject. I ask you to consider whether it would be proper to give an opportunity to one particular member to speak on two different occasions on the same subject.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is nothing wrong in that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about lowering the prestige of the public and public morality through the influx of foreign soldiers in the city and in the mufassal area.

Sir, I did not really think that of all persons Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali who lives in the Park Circus area would try to balk discussion of such an important matter and a matter of grave public importance. I believe Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali knows that near his house almost every evening, if he cares to go out he would see a number of young boys and young girls see in their front a number of white soldiers indulging in sexual acts in a public park openly: little boys and girls clap their hands and the soldiers go on indulging in sexual acts! It is near his house. I believe that he at least has got some respect for his own children and neighbours and would like to stop this nuisance. Sir, the influx of foreign soldiers in Bengal has led to various kinds of evils, but the greatest evil has been the complete immorality let loose and run rampant in different parts of the city as well as in the countryside. Even, Sir, the Metropolitan of India had to take a serious note of the position and he made a frantic effort to see that public morals are not allowed to go down so low as he himself had evidence in his possession to be apprehensive of. At first he approached the problem with such measures of moving away brothels from within the easy reach of the soldiers. Certain streets which were supposed to be normally inhabited by women of ill fame, were through his efforts in the beginning and thereafter through the combined efforts of the Calcutta Corporation, the military authorities and the Government of Bengal, declared as prohibited areas and the soldiers were sought to be kept out of bounds. This out-of-bound theory has unfortunately led to a situation that has in some way spread the evil throughout the city and in the adjoining suburban areas and when the soldiers were expected to keep themselves out of bounds, as an esteemed member has pointed out, the evil has now grown boundless proportion. At first areas like Free School Street were kept out of bounds. The unfortunate women living there soon found themselves

locked up in houses in different parts of the city and in some of the erstwhile respectable houses. The houses were actually requisitioned by certain authorities to keep these persons. In the European Asylum Lane, a street resided by respectable citizens, middle class and rich Muslims and Hindus, suddenly it was noticed that a number of prostitutes began their trade. The gentlemen of the locality got alarmed, for soldiers began to flock during all times of day and night, and due to the alarm that was raised some attempts were made to declare certain portions of that place out of bounds.

Thereafter the Metropolitan of Calcutta and certain eminent medical men thought that more vigorous steps should be taken. The result was that a literal drive has been set afoot to send all the women of ill fame of the town out of their houses. The houses are being requisitioned with 24 hours notice, 48 hours notice and the like, and these women are forced out of their tenements. What has been the result thereof? A large number of them are now flocking to South Calcutta and North Calcutta and to suburbs of various areas in Calcutta, and certain military contractors who are always ready and handy have now started setting up small huts near about soldiers' camps to locate some of these women for being ready and handy for these foreign soldiers. I presume that this has become a good trade for some.

Sir, some of these houses in North Calcutta, some of these streets in North Calcutta had been well known to the resorts of public women for generations. It was also well known that respectable citizens should keep themselves out of bounds from such areas. I take the example of Karaya and also of certain areas in Chitpore. These areas of Karaya land had some peremptory orders served on the owners of the houses and some of the owners were required to quit with bag and baggage in very short time. The net result has been that in other respectable areas of Calcutta and suburbs these women have spread about and the soldiers are being attracted to all parts of the city and suburbs where originally they were going to certain limited areas. This has spread immorality far and wide, and probably, Sir, you know in the area that you live in, things have become so much abominable and horrible that even on the public footpath and the small parks in the Park Circus area almost every evening from about 8 o'clock to 10 o'clock ghastly and shameful acts of foreign and white soldiers freely indulging in sexual acts with public women or women who might not be termed as public women because they might not be registered as such are committed in the presence of young boys and young girls, a position that no civilised Government could ever tolerate, no civilised country could ever think of. The public of Calcutta, the public of the Mofussal have become so exasperated as a result thereof that they do not know what to do.

I know, Sir, one or two cases where the people having got excited and exhausted went to the police to ask for their help. The police have openly told them that "We are helpless; you can take the law in your own hands and do what you like." I know of an instance in the Karaya area where certain foreign soldiers who were black Americans were indulging in excesses in that area. The Muslim neighbours of the place tried to stop this nuisance because many of them were forcibly entering into respectable houses also. The police failed to give them protection but hinted that "As we cannot give you protection you must be free to do what you like and we shall also not take notice of what you do". The result was that three or four of these foreign black soldiers had their belly ripped open and there is a possibility of Indians—Hindus and Muslims—ultimately coming into clash with the military authorities if Government cannot give them sufficient protection against immoralities of this character. I submit, Sir, that that state of affairs should not be allowed to develop.

In the mufassal, members from Chittagong, Tippera and Noakhali districts had in the past before this debate stated how very dangerous it has

become for ordinary citizens—peaceful and peace-loving citizens—to live honest lives. Soldiers enter into decent houses on various pleas and shout "Bibi Hai? Bibi Hai" and all that. And, Sir, there are to our shame a class of people who are now trading on this. The other day when I was at Khulna, some friends who had gone to Chittagong and had come back, gave horrible stories of what they themselves saw with their own eyes of soldiers running about and young boys just for a few rupees that they would get as commission taking them round from place to place to get them in touch with women of various description. This state of affairs must be brought to a close. Mad as these soldiers often are, they have been doing a lot of mischief to this province. The latest cure that has been started, the cure by turning away the womenfolk from houses of ill fame is bound to increase immorality and spread it far and wide. I would like, Sir, the Government to take serious note of that and even the move of providing women of Auxiliary Corps of India to satisfy the soldiers and to assist them in their war work might not be able to prevent immorality going amuck.

Sir, I move the motion standing in your name."

Mr. CIASUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration"—be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the misuse of public fund by creating Propaganda Department.

বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর public fund misuse সম্বন্ধে বলা নিষ্প্রয়োজন। তাঁরা যে কোটি কোটি টাকা misuse করেছেন তার সাক্ষী তাঁদের নিজেদেরই আনা budget। বর্ত্তমান বৎসরের যে budget সেই budget দেখলেই দেখা যায় যে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী এই বাংলা দেশের উপর বহু কোটি টাকা ঋণের বোঝা চাপিয়েছেন শুধু তাঁদের অপকর্ম্ম এবং অপব্যবহারের জন্য। যদি তাঁরা বাস্তবিক চিন্তা করে এই দেশের মঙ্গলের জন্য এবং দেশের যাতে উপকার হয়, জনসাধারণের উপকার হয়, সেই ভাবে টাকা খরচ করতেন তাহলে বাংলার budgetএ এত কোটি টাকার deficit হতো না। যাই হোক বর্ত্তমান Publicity Department সম্বন্ধে বলতে যেয়ে আমি প্রথমে তাঁদের জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে বাংলার বিভিন্ন জেলায় এবং মহকুমায় যে সব propaganda officerএর নামে কতকগুলি officer নিযুক্ত করা হয়েছে তারা কি propaganda করে এবং কি তাদের duty, কিসের propagandaর জন্য তারা নিযুক্ত হয়েছে সেটা আমি জানতে চাই। আমি যতটা জানি, তাদের কাজ সম্পর্কে যতটা অবহিত আছি, তাতে জানি, হিন্দু এবং মুসলমান propaganda officer তারা প্রচার করে শুধু বাংলা দেশে Muslim Leagueএর প্রসার লাভ হউক, Muslim Leagueএ সকলে যোগদান করুক। এই একমাত্র propaganda তাদের জানি। আর তাদের কাজ হচ্ছে যে, যে কোন জায়গায় কোন দিন কোন মন্ত্রী যাবে বা কোন Parliamentary Secretary যাবে, তার জন্য অভ্যর্থনার ব্যবস্থা করা, জনসাধারণকে ডেকে তাদের কাছ হতে কিছু কিছু চাঁদা আদায় করতে থাকা এ ছাড়া তাদের কোন কাজ আছে বলে আমি জানি না। যদি মন্ত্রী বিভাগ এটা জানিয়ে দেন আমি সন্তুষ্ট হবো, যে propaganda officerদের কি কাজ আছে। তার পর আমরা অবশ্য জানি যে এই বিভাগ থেকে ২টো সাপ্তাহিক পত্রিকা বা খবরের কাগজ বেরোয়, একটা হচ্ছে "বাংলার কথা", আর একটা হচ্ছে "Bengal Weekly"। এই সব পত্রিকা বাস্তবিক পত্রিকা নামের উপযুক্ত কিনা। অন্ততঃ যাদের পত্রিকা পড়া অভ্যাস আছে, লেখাপড়া জানেন, তাঁরা অবশ্য স্বীকার করবেন যে এগুলিকে পত্রিকা নামে অভিহিত করা যায় না। এই সব পত্রিকার পড়ার যোগ্য কিছু থাকে বলে আমিত অন্ততঃ বিশ্বাস করি না। শুধু এর মধ্যে ২।১টা সংখ্যায় কেউ কেউ যার মোটেই কাজ নেই এমন M.L.A. হয়ত মাঝে মাঝে লিখে থাকেন, কিন্তু যার কাজ আছে বা একটু চিন্তাশীল লেখাপড়া জানা, পড়বার অভ্যাস আছে, তারা এসব পত্রিকা কোনদিন পড়ে না বলেই আমি বিশ্বাস করি। তবে এতে দেখা যায় মাঝে মাঝে পাতা খুললে মন্ত্রীদের photo এবং তাদের সমর্থক যদি কেউ থাকে তাদের photo এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তাদের চাপরাশীর photoও দেখা যায়। (Laughter) এই হচ্ছে এর বিশেষত্ব। তা এর জন্য এই রকমভাবে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করা, এ জনসাধারণের টাকার misuse ছাড়া আর কিছু বলা যেতে পারে না। অবশ্য বহু বিভাগ এই রকম misuse করে থাকেন, কিন্তু আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি যে এই রকম একটা বাজে বিভাগ খুলে দশ লক্ষ টাকা Publicity Departmentএর খরচ বরাদ্দ দেখা যায় কেন? আজ বাংলা দেশের লোক malariaয় মরছে, কলেরায় মরছে, কালাজ্বরে মরছে। সেখানে চিকিৎসার কোন ব্যবস্থা

নেই। Quinine পাওয়া যায় না কারণ বাংলার Government বলে তার টাকার অভাব। আর শিক্ষা বিভাগের কথা বললে, primary শিক্ষার কোন বন্দোবস্ত হচ্চে না যেহেতু টাকা নেই। আজ শিক্ষকদের, গরীব শিক্ষকদের ভাতার ব্যবস্থা সে রকম করা হয়নি, যেহেতু তাদের টাকা নেই বলে বলা হয়। কিন্তু আমি বলছি যে যেখানে বাংলা দেশের কোন রকম স্বার্থ নেই, বাংলার জনসাধারণের কোন প্রকার উপকারে আসবে না এমন একটা অপদার্থ বিভাগ খুলে সেখানে এই রকম লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করার কোন কিছু প্রয়োজন আছে কি? আমি আরো জানতে পারলাম যে এই বিভাগের জন্য নাকি একজন মন্ত্রী নিযুক্ত করা হয়েছে। Publicity একটা বিভাগ যে বিভাগে কোন কর্ম নাই; সেই বিভাগের জন্যও একজন মন্ত্রী নিযুক্ত করা হয়েছে, এর চেয়ে অর্বাচীনের মত মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী কোন কাজ করেছে বলে আমি বিশ্বাস করি না। যাদের কিছুমাত্র বিবেচনা আছে বুদ্ধি আছে, শক্তি আছে তারা যে একটা অপদার্থ বিভাগের জন্য একজন মন্ত্রী নিযুক্ত করবে তার জন্য লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করবে, এত আমি অন্ততঃ বিশ্বাস করতে পারি না যে কিছু বুদ্ধির পরিচয় তাঁরা দিয়েছেন। যা হোক আমার এক বন্ধু বলেছেন যে বিভাগটা খুব ভাল কিন্তু বাস্তবিক, মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর সেটাকে অপদার্থ করে তুলেছে তা ও হতে পারে। আমি বিশ্বাস করি যে বর্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যেসব কাজ করছেন তাতে কোন দিক দিয়ে বাংলার কোন উন্নতি ত হয়ইনি বরং বাংলার বহু অবনতি হয়েছে। বাংলার বুকে যে ঋণের বোঝা চেপেছে তা কোনদিন যে শোধ দিতে পারবে তা মনে হয় না। আমার এক বন্ধু বলেছেন যে বাংলা দেশকে বিক্রয় করার ব্যবস্থা করছে; কারণ Civil Supplies Department থেকে আরম্ভ করে যেসব নূতন বিভাগ খুলেছে, এবং তাতে যে কোটি কোটি টাকা খরচ হচ্ছে এসব খরচ যদি না করে বাংলার মঙ্গলের জন্য, বাংলার জনসাধারণের মঙ্গলের জন্য, nation-building departmentএ এই সব টাকা খরচ করতেন তাহলে বাংলার বাস্তবিক এই যে দুর্দ্দিন, এই দুর্গতি তা থেকে আমরা অনেকটা রক্ষা পেতাম। কাজেই এই সম্পর্কে বেশী বলে আমি আর সময় নিতে চাই না। শুধু এই বলতে চাই যে এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কাছ থেকে জানতে চাই যে এই propaganda officeররা তাঁরা কিজন্য নিযুক্ত হয়েছেন এবং কি তাঁরা প্রচার করেন, বাংলার মঙ্গলের জন্য, বাংলার জনসাধারণের মঙ্গলের জন্য তাঁরা এ পর্যন্ত কি কাজ করেছেন এই উত্তরটা আমি জানতে চাই।

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to appoint Scheduled Caste candidates in Government posts according to the ratio rules as formulated by the Government and also in the matter of distribution of standard cloth shops, disribution of Government contracts, etc.

Now, Sir, by my cut motion I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that they are actually not doing anything so far as appointment of Scheduled Caste people is concerned in the Government services. This is not a new matter; this is an old matter to which attention of Government has been drawn times without number on the very floor of this House, but to our great misfortune the Government has not paid any attention to the item. So far as the grievances of the Scheduled Caste people are concerned the Government practically maintains an attitude of indifference. I can give any number of instances to illustrate my point, but I do not like to waste the time of the House by doing so. I will mention only one or two instances.

As regards the appointment of lawyer-Magistrates, I should say, Sir, that the communal ratio rules were not applied *in toto*. Very recently Government's attention had been drawn by me to this matter, but in spite of our best efforts nothing has been done by the Government.

As regards appointments in the Civil Supplies Department, Government's attention has been drawn times without number, so that appointments may be given to the Scheduled Caste candidates following the Communal Ratio Rules, but to our utter misfortune, Sir, our repeated requests in this direction have fallen on deaf ears. The other day, Sir, I went to the office of the Controller of Rationing in Town Hall. From what I heard there I have been personally convinced that the Communal Ratio Rules, so far as appointment of Scheduled Castes candidates is concerned, have not been applied *in toto*. The other day one of the members of the staff over

there told me that whenever some posts are advertised, the number of applications received from Scheduled caste candidates is very small. But I found out from the list of applicants who had applied to the Civil Supplies Department that although the number of Scheduled Caste candidates is small, it did not fall short of the posts to be filled in by the Scheduled Castes community. In spite of these things, Sir, and although I have repeatedly drawn the attention of the Government that the Communal Ratio Rules should be applied *in toto*, to our utter misfortune nothing has been done by the Government in this direction.

There is another thing to which I want to draw the attention of the Government, i.e., the Public Service Commission the personnel of which is mainly constituted of members of communities other than Scheduled Caste people. I want to draw the attention of Government to the desirability of including at least one member in the Public Service Commission from the Scheduled Castes. Otherwise, so far as Scheduled Caste applicants for Government services are concerned, no justice will be done if nobody from the Scheduled Caste community is appointed a member of the Public Service Commission.

There is another thing, Sir, to which I want to draw the attention of the Government, namely, the qualifying clause in advertisements. Whenever any post is advertised, there is a qualifying clause that if a properly qualified Scheduled Caste candidate is not found from among the Scheduled Caste community for a post to be filled by Scheduled Caste people, then some other candidate outside the Schedule Caste community will be taken in for that post. Sir, this qualifying clause in the appointment is very whimsical and practically has got no sense because to one appointing authority it may have the significance that a particular person has got the proper qualification and to another it may have the significance that the particular candidate has not got the proper qualification at all. I suggest that Government should do away with that qualifying clause so far as the appointment of Scheduled Caste candidates is concerned. Then, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the nomination to village self-governing institutions and municipalities of mufassal towns. There I have seen that so far as Government nomination is concerned Government ignore the cases of Scheduled Caste candidates save and except in one or two occasions.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to give effect to the report of the Chaukidari Inquiry Committee.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমার নামে যে ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব, আমি নিয়মিতভাবে সেটা উপস্থিত করছি এবং বলতে চাই যে একটা চৌকিদারী এন্‌কোয়ারী কমিটি করে কেন হাজার হাজার টাকা খরচ করা হয়েছে এবং তার একটা report আনা হলেও সেটা কার্য্যকরী করা হচ্চে না কেন। সেই কথাটা আমি পরিষ্কারভাবে গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছে জানতে চাই। এই চৌকিদারদের বেতন অন্ততঃ অর্দ্ধেকটাও যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট বহন করতেন তাহলে বাংলার জনসাধারণ চৌকীদারী ট্যাক্সএর দায়িত্ব হতে মুক্তি পেত, এবং যে ট্যাক্স আদায় করা হয় তার দ্বারাতে ইউনিয়নের যথেষ্ট উপকার করা যায়। আমি বেশী কিছু বলতে চাই না। আমি শুধু জানতে চাই যে এই যে হাজার হাজার টাকা খরচ করে এই committee বসিয়ে তার report আনা হয়েছে সেটা কার্য্যকরী গভর্ণমেণ্ট করছেন না কেন। সেই কথাটা জানবার জন্যই আমি এই প্রস্তাবটা এনেছি।

Adjournment.

The House was adjournment at 7 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 21st March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 21st March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 189 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Nomination of members for Jessore Municipality.

*211. **Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(a) when the last election of the Jessore Municipality took place;

(b) the reason why the names of the nominated members have not been announced as yet; and

(c) when the names of the nominated members will be announced?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (a) Last general election was held on the 2nd November, 1943.

(b) and (c) The names of members were published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated the 15th February, 1945.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the reasons for the delay in publishing the name of those nominated members?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: After the recommendations from the local officers were received by the Government, various public bodies made representations to the Government and Government had to consider and reconcile those representations for which this thing had to be referred back to the Collector and naturally it took some time.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is it a fact that some members interested in the League Party intervened in the nominations?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is it a fact that the Government was trying to secure its own nominees and that was why the matter was referred back to the District Magistrate?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, on the representation of some local bodies from various groups and various communities, Government referred back to the local officers for their opinion and Government had to reconcile all those suggestions.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is it a fact that the District Magistrate sent the names and those names were objected to by some Leaguers and that was why they were sent back to the District Magistrate for fresh consideration?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the local bodies and who are those gentlemen that prayed to the benign Government for a revision of the list?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice about the names of the local bodies.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the honourable member be pleased to state when the names of the first nominees were received by the Government and when the names were sent back for reconsideration of the District Magistrate?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Sometime in the middle of 1944.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the matter of these nominations reference had to be made to the Chief Whip of the Government?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the functions exercised by the Chief Whip in these nominations?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: If there is any representation from any of the the local bodies, the Chief Whip is asked to make enquiry and give his opinion and at the same time Government also refer back these things to the local officers for their opinion.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state what are these local bodies to which he has made reference in the last answer?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Any local body—Hindu Mahasabha, Congress or any other body.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state whether Government has issued a circular by which invitations are made to local bodies and political bodies for sending their suggestions?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, Sir.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state how the Government expect these local bodies to send representations unless they are informed that their recommendations will be considered?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: As soon as election is over, the local bodies are expected to know that appointments will be made by Government and the local bodies taking interest in such local affairs generally make some representations, if they have got anything to say.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how is it that the opinion of the Congress was sought in view of the fact the Congress was non-existent, because it was banned?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have already said that no opinion is sought from any local body, but they of their own accord send their representations if they have got anything to say.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state since when has this practice of taking recommendations from local bodies been adopted by the Government?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Since we have come to office; what was the custom of the previous Government we do not know.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the suggestions of the League Party of Jessore?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the suggestion of the Hindu Mahasabha Party of Jessore?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The suggestion of the District Hindu Mahasabha was that they claimed one seat more for the Caste Hindus.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names, if any, suggested by the Hindu Mahasabha, the League, the Congress or any other public body as referred to?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the special qualifications of the Government Chief Whip to be judge in nomination matters?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The Government Chief Whip is expected to know public opinion more than anybody else.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Congress at any time did make any suggestion as to the nomination to any municipality or any other local body?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The Congress as a body did not want, but individual Congress members, so far as I remember, did.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any name was suggested from the Secretariat to the District Magistrate to be adopted?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Secretariat do not send any name to the District Magistrate, but on the representation of local bodies, they send in names to the local officers for their opinion.

Scheme for improving the subordinate inspectorate for proper supervision of primary schools.

*212. **Maulvi ABDUL JABBAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the District School Boards have no inspecting staff directly under their control;

(*ii*) that the number of inspecting staff of the Education Department is inadequate for proper supervision of the primary schools;

(*iii*) that there was a scheme for improving the subordinate inspectorate for proper supervision of the primary schools by appointing greater number of Sub-Inspectors with lesser qualification than at present; and

(*iv*) that the circular order regulating the relationship between the Presidents of District School Boards and the Sub-Inspectors of Schools has been withdrawn?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that a deputation consisting of some Presidents of District School Boards waited upon the Hon'ble Minister about a year ago and urged on the immediate necessity of restoring the said circular order?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is considering the desirability of—

(*i*) giving effect to the proposed scheme of increasing the number of Sub-Inspectors with less pay by recruiting them mainly from the rank of head teachers of primary schools;

(*ii*) permitting the District School Boards to appoint some inspecting officers for ensuring proper supervision of primary schools; and

(*iii*) prescribing rules for regulating the relationship between the Presidents of School Boards and the Sub-Inspectors of Schools on the basis of the old rules on the subject?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*b*) Experience has shown that the system of dual control by heads of Local Bodies and the District Officer is not conducive to good administration.

(*d*) The question of efficient inspection of primary schools under the District School Boards is being considered.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House, how many schools a School Sub-Inspector has to inspect during a year?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: There is no hard and fast rule as to how many schools a Sub-Inspector has to inspect.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Generally how many schools are in the jurisdiction of one Sub-Inspector of schools?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that it is not practically feasible for a Sub-Inspector of Schools to thoroughly inspect the primary schools within his jurisdiction once in a year?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: I do agree with the honourable member that as the matter stands at present, the Sub-Inspector of a circle cannot be expected to thoroughly inspect all the schools in his jurisdiction?

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to the answer just now given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House whether they are going to increase the number of Sub-Inspector of Schools to have these primary schools inspected at least once a year?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Sir, the reply to this question is given in (*d*), viz., the question of efficient inspection of primary schools under the District Boards is being considered by Government.

Grievances of security prisoners in Dum Dum Central Jail.

***213. Mr. SATYAPRIYA BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the security prisoners of the Dum Dum Central Jail are governed by rules different from those governing them in other jails;

(*b*) whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes to enquire into the conduct of the local jail authorities in the matter of supply of articles to the security prisoners; whether *dhotis*, etc., are not being supplied when due;

(c) whether he proposes to enquire into the fact that the local jail authorities suppressed the circular providing two quilt covers till the arrival of security prisoners from Midnapore Central Jail where two quilt covers were supplied;

(d) whether the arrangements for medical treatment in this jail are inadequate and unsatisfactory and whether the medicines prescribed by the specialists are not supplied;

(e) whether the Superintendent of Dum Dum Jail has with the knowledge and consent of the Home Department or on his own initiative stopped his weekly round to enquire into the grievances of the security prisoners;

(f) whether he is aware that the shoes supplied to the security prisoners are unfit for use; and

(g) whether he contemplates increasing—

(i) the sanctioned prices of the articles supplied to the security prisoners,

(ii) the dietary allowance of Re.1-8 per day, and

(iii) the sports allowance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (a) and (d) to (g)(i) No.

(b) The fact is that due to the present emergency articles of clothing of the variety chosen by the security prisoners are not always readily available with consequent irregularity in the supply. Nevertheless, every step is taken to supply security prisoners' articles in time.

(c) No; because nothing was suppressed. Under the rules security prisoners get one quilt cover and not two.

(ii) and (iii) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (b), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the variety of clothing requisitioned by the security prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The security prisoners demanded 46 inches dhoties and a special variety of khaddar clothing.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this variety requisitioned by the security prisoners is not available in Bengal?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is difficult to obtain supplies and that is why some delay has occurred and they wanted some bed-sheets of better quality and effort was made by the Department to supply better quality bed-sheets.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us with reference to answer (c)(ii) and (iii), viz., the matter is under consideration, how long the matter is under consideration and when the final decision is likely to be arrived at with regard to dietary allowance and sports allowance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question of dietary allowance was once examined in 1943, after this Ministry assumed office and the dietary allowance of annas twelve was increased to Re.1-8 and again the matter has been represented to the Chief Minister and he is considering the matter. I cannot say when the Chief Minister will arrive at a decision, but I can assure the House that the matter will be expedited and the question of increase of the sports allowance also is receiving the Chief Minister's attention.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*e*), viz., "No", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to clarify whether he by saying "No" means that the Superintendent has not stopped his weekly visit or he has stopped his weekly visit but without any sanction from the Government? What does he mean by "No"?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The word "No" obviously means that the practice has not been stopped. Both the Superintendent and the Additional Superintendent go to their weekly visits of the security prisoners.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the reply given to (*g*)(*i*) and the reply given to (*g*)(*ii*) and (*iii*)? He has replied that the Government are not contemplating increase of dietary allowance due to increased prices of articles, but at the same time Government have replied that the matter is under consideration. Will the Hon'ble Minister please clarify what Government are considering?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The answer to (*g*)(*i*) is "No" meaning that Government are not considering the question of increment in the prices of articles of clothing, etc., supplied to the security prisoners, but Government are considering the question of increasing the dietary allowance and sports allowance of the security prisoners.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there are any non-official visitors for the security prisoners in the Dum Dum Central Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. Where the security prisoners are lodged, there are special boards of visitors in which the non-officials are serving as members.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who are the non-official visitors?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice. I have not got the file with me.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: এ কথা কি সত্য যে Security Prisonersদের অনেকে চরকা কাটেন?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: গভর্ণমেণ্ট অনুগ্রহ করে তাদের সেই সূতাদ্বারা কাপড় প্রস্তুত করে দেবার দাবীও গ্রহণ করবেন কি?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot reply to that also. Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty takes much interest in the security prisoners and many of his valuable suggestions are accepted by Government. In this case also if he places his suggestions before the Government, they will be considered.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Government consider the desirability to place on the library table copies of reports by non-official visitors of the security prisoners of the Dum Dum Central Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when they are going to have a decision with regard to increment of dietary allowance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already replied to that.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the orders for dhotis and other articles of the security prisoners were supplied after the due date was over?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot answer that. I ask for notice. There may have been some delay, because the security prisoners demanded supply of a special variety of articles or clothing and that matter had to be taken to Government before the Jail Superintendent could take action.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to question (*d*) is the Hon'ble Minister in a position to deny if I say that the security prisoners, Srijut Nirmal Kumar Roy, and Srijut Prafulla Kumar Tripathi, who are suffering from leucoderma and other diseases have not been given treatment and medicine as prescribed by the specialists who examined them in the Dum Dum Central Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid, I have to ask for notice if he wants details. But I can tell the honourable member that attached to the jail besides medical officers there are four Sub-Assistant Surgeons and there is no difficulty in the matter of procurement and supply of medicines in the jail.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given and the information that I have furnished, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to enquire into the matter as to whether the prisoners in the Dum Dum Jail are supplied with medicines as prescribed by the specialists?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: My information is that medicines prescribed by the visiting specialists or any specialists are supplied to the security prisoners. If the honourable member desires that any particular case should be investigated, I am prepared to do that.

Regarding security prisoner Sj. Narayan Chandra Datta.

*214. **Mr. SATYAPRIYA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that security prisoner Sj. Narayan Chandra Datta, aged about 23 years, has been recently transferred from Alipore Central Jail to Rajshahi Central Jail;

(*ii*) that the aforesaid security prisoner has been suffering from dilatations of the heart and high blood pressure ranging from 175 to 185;

(*iii*) that shortly prior to his transfer to Rajshahi Central Jail he had an attack of apoplexy and oxygen had to be administered to him;

(*iv*) that it had been brought to the Hon'ble Minister's notice during his last visit to the Rajshahi Central Jail by the questioner that there was no arrangement for the treatment of political prisoners there and that it is a long-standing grievance of the political security prisoners there; and

(*v*) that his life is in danger for want of proper medical treatment in Rajshahi Central Jail?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the reasons therefor; and

(*ii*) whether the Hon'ble Minister is contemplating to retransfer him to Calcutta immediately for proper medical treatment?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that as a convict under the Defence of India Rules he was for a long time in the Medical College for treatment in 1943?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): Babu Narayan Datta has already been released on medical grounds on the 22nd February, 1945. I do not consider it necessary to furnish any further particulars about him.

Filling up of vacancies in the Piece Establishment of Bengal Government Press.

***215 and *216. Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI and Maulvi MD. ABUL FAZL:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(i) whether there are three Establishments (Fluctuating, Extra-piece, and Permanent-Piece) in the Bengal Government Press;

(ii) whether new recruits are first appointed in Fluctuating Establishment and get thorough training for years together before being transferred to Extra-piece Establishment when vacancies occur; and

(iii) whether workers belonging to Fluctuating, Extra-piece and Permanent Piece Establishments are in the same line of service?

(b) If the answer to (a) (i) to (iii) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) whether transfer of binders from Fluctuating to Extra-piece Establishment should be treated as promotion or not; and

(ii) whether vacancies in the Extra-piece Establishment should be filled up by trained and experienced binders belonging to Fluctuating Establishment or not?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami): (a) (i) to (iii) and (b) (ii) The regular cadre of piece-workers in the Bengal Government Press consists of a Permanent Piece and an Extra-piece Establishment. Appointments are initially made in the Extra-piece Establishment and Extra-piece-workers are promoted to the Permanent Piece Establishment as vacancies occur. The Fluctuating Piece Establishment consists of men who are taken in according to the exigencies of the Press and are discharged as soon as the necessity for further retention disappears. These men have, as of right, no claim to appointment in the Extra-piece Establishment though in actual practice, if found suitable, they are absorbed in vacancies in the Extra-piece Establishment subject to the provisions of the Communal Ratio Rules.

(b) (i) No, it is not treated as promotion.

Appointment of dismissed, discharged and retired Government servants.

***217. Dr. SANAULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(a) how many—

(i) dismissed,

(ii) discharged, and

(iii) retired

Government servants have been employed in the various Departments of the Government during the financial years 1943-44 and 1944-45 with their respective salaries which they used to draw before,

(*i*) dismissal,

(*ii*) discharge or

(*iii*) retirement, and

the pay at which they were reappointed;

(*b*) How many of them are—

(*i*) males,

(*ii*) females,

(*iii*) Caste Hindus,

(*iv*) Muslims,

(*v*) Scheduled Castes, and

(*vi*) others; and

(*c*) how many of them are related to the Hon'ble Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and members supporting them?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: The information is not readily available and Government consider that the collection of such information will involve an amount of time and labour quite incommensurate with its value.

Holding of meetings in colliery area.

*218. **Mr. B. MUKHERJI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Labour Department aware—

(*i*) of two written applications, dated the 10th May, 1944, and the 22nd June, 1944, made by the Bengal Coal Workers' Union, Barakar, and a third application, dated the 30th August, 1944, made by me, to the Subdivisional Officer, Asansol, requesting his permission for holding meetings in the colliery area;

(*ii*) that in each of the above three cases the Subdivisional Officer has refused the said permission without giving any reason whatsoever for his action;

(*iii*) that the proposed meetings were all desired to be held in the very constituency which I represent in this House; and

(*iv*) that the object of the proposed meetings were expressly stated in the letters?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why the said permission has been refused?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister further aware—

(*i*) that, in view of the restrictive town pass system prevailing in the town of Burnpore, trade union organisers are put to great inconvenience by being denied access to a large body of workers residing within the "protected" limits of the town; and

(*ii*) that, because of the said restrictions, the normal and legal activities of such organisations as the Asansol Iron and Steel Workers' Union (Registered No. 536), are severely hampered?

(*d*) Do the Government propose to allow at least a certain number of town passes to accredited organisers of Government registered and *bona fide* Trade Unions of workers residing within Burnpore town?

MINISTER in charge of the LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. K. Shahabuddin): (*a*) (*i*), (*iii*) and (*iv*) Yes.

(*ii*) Reasons were given in the first case (application, dated the 10th May, 1944). No reasons were given in the other two cases.

(*b*) The first application was for permission to hold meetings to explain the Government of India's plan for providing rations, etc., for colliery

labour. The position at that time was confused and a Government of India Labour Department Officer was investigating on the spot and no propaganda at that stage was likely to be useful.

The other two applications for permission for meetings were refused as it was feared that any discussion regarding production of coal at the time was likely to have an adverse effect on coal-mine labour, particularly as the organisers of the proposed meetings had no intimate knowledge of coal-mining.

(*c*) (*i*) The trade union organisers are denied access unless they hold a town pass.

(*ii*) The Asansol Iron and Steel Workers' Union is a new union and has grown up in the conditions stated in (*i*) above; its normal and legal activities are therefore not considered to have been hampered by the town pass system.

(*d*) Town passes are granted to persons who have specific legitimate business in the town provided their business does not interfere with war effort. All applications for town passes will be considered accordingly.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Dhanbad recommendations of the Labour Department officer who was investigating on the spot in regard to various complaints referred to in answer (*b*) have been made available to the labourers of Asansol area?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Dr. Sanyal wants some information after the incidents took place for which he asked this question. I submit, Sir, that this question does not arise here.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is for you to give a ruling, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the position after the first application referred to in answer (*b*) was such as demanded revision of the previous position in view of the report published by the Labour Department officer who was investigating?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I am not aware if the position was such, but the reason for refusal of permission has been stated in my answer (*b*).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was likely to be adversely affected, if propaganda on behalf of labour was permitted in that area before or at the time, the Labour Department officer was investigating?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I would refer the honourable member to my answer (*a*) (*ii*) and (*b*) (*i*).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There is no (*b*)(*i*).

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Only (*b*). The reason given is that it was considered at that time that any agitation at that stage would confuse the issue in arriving at a decision on that point.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the opinion of Government propaganda at that stage was not likely to be useful for the employers or for the employees?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Government was trying to come to a decision. The question of employers or employees does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if other than propaganda as mentioned in answer (*b*) any opportunity was given to the miners to represent their case before the Labour Department officer, and if so what?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I would draw the attention of the honourable member to the fact that this enquiry was being held by the Labour Officer of the Government of India, and therefore we were not primarily connected with that enquiry, but I take it that the usual labour organisations were permitted to represent their case before the officer.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Bengal Coal Workers' Union of Barakar of which Comrade Bankim Mukherjee, M.L.A., is the president was not permitted to represent the case, because they were not given town passes to go to the area?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: The reason for refusal of this permission to go there has been stated in my answer. I have nothing further to add.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who issues town passes?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I believe it is the Subdivisional Officer, but I am not sure.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that legitimate trade union activity is being hampered by the Subdivisional Officer who has got control over the issue of town passes and who refuses trade union workers from going there to have consultation with labour in the area?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, first of all, I would refer my honourable friend to my answer (*c*)(*ii*) and I would add this that as far as the question of town passes is concerned during my recent visit to Mangalkote in the Katwa subdivision all the workers in the Burnpore area came and represented all matters to me and since then I have asked for a very complete and detailed report from the Subdivisional Officer and the District Magistrate. I can assure the honourable member that I will go into the whole question of town passes and see what can be done in this matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in addition to refusal to bona fide trade union workers from entering that area through the limitation of issue of town passes, the Subdivisional Officer has banned meetings in the colliery area with an ad hoc order prohibiting all classes of meetings of labourers in the area without previous sanction?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I am waiting for this report from the Subdivisional Officer and I can assure the House that I will go into this question thoroughly.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has received a petition bringing to his notice that about a couple of months back chaprasis were posted to prevent trade union workers from mixing with miners in Dhaoras and one worker, Comrade Mohanram a leading worker of the Bengal Coal Workers' Union was forcibly taken to the Manager, West Victoria Colliery of the New Birbhum Coal Company of which the Managing Agents are Messrs. Balmer Lawrie and Company, and was beaten?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I do not recall such a representation now. It might have been received in office.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the Hon'ble Minister also received a representation on the 14th February, 1945, that Comrade Krishna Adhikari, Assistant Secretary, Sripore Branch of the Union was beaten by

Company's goondas and was carried forcibly to the bungalow of Mr. Evans, Agent of Sripore Colliery of which the Managing Agents are Messrs. Turner Morrison and Company, who himself beat him with blows causing injuries?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I am not aware from what my friend is reading. Generally such representation in the first instance is made to the Labour Commissioner. I do not remember having actually seen such a representation myself.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government has also received a representation that on the 14th of February, 1945, in the evening, one Comrade Gadadhar Pal was beaten by paid men of the Company in the very presence of the Company employed Labour Welfare Officer who, instead of taking any action, ordered Gadadhar Pal to leave the premises of the colliery immediately?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I cannot allow this question after the replies that have been given by the Hon'ble Minister.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, these very serious charges have been brought to his notice arising out of the legitimate activities of the Trade Union Workers' in the colliery.

Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that in Nos. 11 and 12, Pits of Baksimulia Colliery under Bengal Coal Co., Ltd., of Andrew Yule & Co., the Company's system of supply of free rice and bonus has not yet been implemented and Comrade Mohanram was forcibly taken to the Manager by some goondas and was kept in custody for a few hours on the 19th February, 1945?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I think this question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps has he or his Labour Department taken to ensure that along with legitimate meetings of workers in the colliery areas, the activities of Labour Welfare Workers' and Union officers are permitted to be conducted freely and without interference by local Government officials?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I would refer the honourable member to answer (*d*)

Hand-loom industry in Bankura district.

***219. Sj. MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what quantity of cloth was manufactured by hand-looms in the district of Bankura in 1941, 1942, and 1943;

(*b*) how many hand-looms have at present become idle as a result of economic crisis in 1943 and shortage of yarn supply in the district; and

(*c*) what steps have been taken by Government to resuscitate the hand-loom industry in the district and to encourage production of cloth to meet the present scarcity?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: (*a*) and (*b*) I have no information.

(*c*) The Director of Industries has supplied 59 bales of yarn to the District Magistrate of Bankura under the Rehabilitation Scheme. At present the Civil Supplies Department is in charge of supply of yarn to the

weavers of Bengal. From the long-range point of view, however, the problem of adequate supply of yarn to the weavers can only be solved by the establishment of a spinning mill in Bengal. It is in contemplation to start such a mill immediately and a scheme to that end is now being worked out. Meanwhile, a scheme for the reorganisation of the hand-loom industry of Bengal, which *inter alia* envisages the supply of yarn to the hand-loom weavers is under the consideration of Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the reply that 59 bales of yarn to the District Magistrate of Bankura by the Director of Industries, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the date of the supply actually effected, the party or parties to whom the supply was effected and the count or counts of the bales supplied?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I am sorry, I have not the necessary papers available, but I can undertake to send all this information to the honourable member in the course of tomorrow.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a number of bales were of 80 counts?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, in view of the answer just given by the Hon'ble Minister, I think it would be better to hold over the question.

(The question was accordingly held over.)

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answers were given)

Filling up of vacancies in the Piece Establishment of Bengal Government Press.

66 and 67. Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM and Khan Bahadur FAZLUR RAHMAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether there are three Establishments (Fluctuating, Extra-piece and Permanent-piece) in the Bengal Government Press;

(*ii*) whether new recruits are first appointed in Fluctuating Establishment and get thorough training for years together before being transferred to Extra-piece Establishment when vacancies occur; and

(*iii*) whether workers belonging to Fluctuating, Extra-piece and Permanent Piece Establishments are in the same line of service?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether transfer of binders from Fluctuating to Extra-piece Establishment should be treated as promotion or not; and

(*ii*) whether vacancies in the Extra-piece Establishment should be filled up by trained and experienced binders belonging to Fluctuating Establishment or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: The honourable members are referred to the answer given to the starred questions Nos. *215 and *216 on the 21st March, 1945.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Questions over.

Information about certain facts regarding the Alipore Central Jail incident.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, before you take up the Budget may I with your permission communicate to the Hon'ble the Chief

Minister, certain facts which have come to my knowledge after the visit of Mr. N. K. Basu to the Alipore Central Jail. After Mr. Basu visited the jail——

Dr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, I think you ought to have given me this information earlier.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: But, Sir, we have got this information only just now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it would not be proper to raise anything of which I have not been given any information. It is the convention of the House that at least I should know when a matter is coming up before it is taken up.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: But, Sir, it is a very important matter regarding——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After the recess you may come to my chamber and I will discuss the matter with you,, and then if I find that it is an important matter, I will permit you to raise this point later on.

Now, as regards the Budget discussion, I hope the Whips of the different parties will assist me in deciding today's time to be allotted to these motions and the time to be given not only to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, but also to other Hon'ble Ministers concerned to reply to General Administration matters.

Allotment of time for speeches.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit, we had already handed over to you, the motions and the order of the motions, but we were surprised last evening, when you had suddenly adjourned the House. And in view of that we presume that you are going to sit till 9 o'clock tonight and allow all the motions to be properly moved. The Police Budget is also a very important subject and ought to be given at least two hours' time. It is now 4-35 p.m. and if we go on till 6-30 p.m., with General Administration, from 6-30 p.m. to 8-30 p.m., we are prepared to sit for Police Budget.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I take it that it is your time-table. I will take this into consideration in fixing my time-table.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

25—General Administration.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in appointing Army officers for civil duty in the province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the appointment of Army officers on civil duty, the people of Bengal have to pay Rs. 1,42,000, for on page 55 of the Red Book, it has been stated that the cost incurred for the training centre for Army officers deputed for civil duty is Rs. 1,42,000, and the cost for Training Centre for Army officers deputed for civil duty in this province in the year 1945 is Rs. 98,000.

Certainly, Sir, it is well known to us that Primary Education has suffered for want of fund: the teachers of primary schools could not be paid dearness allowance for want of funds, but, Sir, for training of Army officers for civil duty, we have to pay more than two lakhs of rupees which is said to be an absolute necessity. Sir, we can of course understand the appointment of Army officers on civil duty, when there is a declaration of martial law. I can illustrate the point by my own experience. In my own district, the district of Tippera, the Additional Magistrate there is Major Herbert. I went to see the District Magistrate

some months ago, over the question of requisition of my land and house. The District Magistrate, Mr. Dutch, told me that the matter is under the consideration and under the supervision of Major Herbert, a military officer. I told him that I could not go to him unless he was pleased to introduce me to him. He said he would do it. He phoned him and introduced me to him and gave me an introduction letter saying that I was going to him over my own question and requested Major Herbert to give me a patient hearing. So I got a recommendation from the District Magistrate. I went to see Major Herbert. I waited for half-an hour and then I was called into his room, I found him seated with a revolver on his table. Then I raised the question of compensation for my house and also raised the question of compensation for a certain gentleman whose 2,000 bamboos had been cut by the military authorities without paying any compensation. Do you know, Sir, what Major Herbert told me? Major Herbert told me, "Mr. Dutt, why do you think of compensation? You would have been under the Jap servitude, but for us." He repeated "You would have been under Jap servitude, but for us. Why do you care for compensation?" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was terrified, because there was a revolver on his table and I could not argue with him and thinking discretion to be the better part of valour came away I said, "Very well, I put my case to you. Do what you please." I told Mr. Dutch what he had told me and that I could not argue with him. Moreover, some time back an American soldier shot a person dead; so my courage failed. I could not argue about the question of compensation and I came away. Sir, that is the picture of a Military Officer.

I shall tell you about the experience of some other gentleman, a member of our bar, who told me regarding this gentleman. He is not to blame. He does not know anything about the civil law of the country. The question of compensation is to be determined under the Land Acquisition Act. The gentleman went in connection with the question of one homestead of a certain person belonging to an under-raiyat which was requisitioned by the Government and there was the question of compensation. The whole compensation money was given over to the raiyat, who was the immediate landlord of the under-raiyat. The under-raiyat claimed that as he was the owner of the homestead for more than 12 years, he was entitled to get the compensation. So the question of apportionment of compensation did arise. Major Herbert said, "What do you say? I do not understand your raiyat or under-raiyat. I shall write to the Viceroy, why he put me in charge of this office." The gentleman said "You are to determine the compensation. It is your duty to apportion the compensation." Major Herbert said "I do not know whether it is my duty or not. I shall write to the Viceroy." So he had to come away. This is the experience of one member of the bar. I do not know whether anybody else has got any experience of a Military Officer. I have told about my experience. I do not know whether Major Herbert is the Additional District Magistrate now or he is in charge of the district, because I hear Mr. Dutch is already transferred.

This is the experience of one and I think this will be the experience of all of us, who have come in contact with an Army Officer. The Army Officer is not to blame; the Chief Minister is to blame. What is the necessity of putting an Army Officer on to civil duties? Civil duty implies knowledge of civil law and an Army Officer is not expected to know civil law: So I hope Government will consider the matter. They have already spent two lakhs of rupees. People's money has been squandered away to the extent of two lakhs. I think this system must be put a stop to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I take my seat I would say a few words about corruption, if you allow me to say. Corruption, Sir, is the prevailing question of the day.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, how can you bring in this question?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Because the Army Officers are corrupt.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I know that Army Officers are corrupt and my friend Dr. Sanyal has said that. Moreover, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Speaker has allowed me to speak generally without confining to the general administration. If you are pleased to allow me, I shall cite a few instances with regard to corruption.

Sir, I beg to submit that corruption is encouraged by the members of the Cabinet. The Ministers encourage those Subdivisional Officers, who are notoriously corrupt. Some days ago, I just said to some person that 50 per cent. of the Subdivisional Officers were corrupt. The person in authority corrected me and said, "You are mistaken, Mr. Datta, not 50 per cent. but 75 per cent of the Subdivisional Officers are corrupt." The Subdivisional Officers are found to be hobnobbing with the appointed dealers, who are notoriously corrupt. I shall illustrate my point from my own experience. When an Hon'ble Minister goes to mufassal, he accepts the invitation of those appointed dealers, who are notoriously corrupt in the locality. The other day the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies went to Brahmanbaria. He received an invitation from one Abdul Mannan Thakur of Sarail. He is an appointed dealer and is a notorious black-marketeer and profiteer. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies went to Sarail and told the people there that he had come at the request and invitation of Abdul Mannan Thakur. One gentleman present in the meeting said that Abdul Mannan Thakur was a black-marketeer and a profiteer and he wanted to have his ears. This he said in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister. The Hon'ble Minister anyhow restrained him. Then while the Hon'ble Minister along with Abdul Mannan Thakur, the Additional Magistrate and the Subdivisional Officer was passing by, they were obstructed by one thousand people in Sahilpur bazar. They said to the Hon'ble Minister that they wanted Abdul Mannan Thakur, who was notoriously corrupt. They said, "We want to cut his ears in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister." The Additional District Magistrate interfered and but for his interference there would have been a serious incident in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister. The Hon'ble Minister said that the Additional District Magistrate would make an enquiry into the allegations as to the corruption, black-marketing and profiteering by Abdul Mannan Thakur. I want to know, Sir, whether any enquiry has been made into the allegations of corruption, black-marketing and profiteering of Abdul Mannan Thakur.

Sir, the Subdivisional Officer was also accused of being in league with Abdul Mannan Thakur as to the corruption, black-marketing and profiteering. The other day my friend Mr. Shahedali made an accusation as to the corruption of the Subdivisional Officer of Laxam, Mr. Ershad. Sir, this officer accepted a *dali* from a certain person on the occasion of a marriage ceremony. Sir, I am giving facts and an enquiry should be made into the allegations of corruption of this Subdivisional Officer. The Subdivisional Officer encourages this profiteer and black-marketeer in court in the presence of others and is accepting invitation of this notorious profiteer and black-marketeer. Sir, I am sorry that I am compelled to mention names. As to whether the allegations are true or not, I would request the Government to make an enquiry.

Now, Sir, if we want to put an end to this kind of corruption, the Ministry should be such that they should be above suspicion. We are making allegations in regard to corruption and malpractices in the various departments and if the Ministry want to put an end to them, they should try to be above suspicion. If the Ministry are not above suspicion there will be widespread corruption in the general administration of the province.

Sir, we are now before the bar of the world and I want to tell the Ministry that when allegations are made by us, they should be enquired into. I am quite sure that if there is an enquiry the allegations will be found to be true. Those found guilty then should be punished. Unless they are punished corruption will go on. Sir, there is corruption here, there and everywhere and it must be put an end to.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the propriety of a circular issued by the Government to the effect that all nominations to local bodies should be made in consultation with the Government Chief Whip.

Sir, if I am permitted to coin a new phrase, I would say that the Muslim League Government is bent upon "Muslimlegalising" the whole Government of this province, executive Government as well as Local Self-Government. As an illustration of this unfair and inordinate desire to Muslimlegalise the Government of the province, I would read out to the House, the original copy of a letter addressed by Khan Sahib Hamiduddin Ahmad, Parliamentary Secretary, Local Self-Government, on the 20th October, to certain gentlemen in Mymensingh district asking them to vote for certain League candidates for election to the District School Board. The letter ends with the line "the opponents of Muslim League must be regarded by you as the enemies of Islam".

Now, Sir, the most noteworthy feature of this letter is that it is signed by Khan Sahib Hamiduddin Ahmad, not in his personal capacity, not as a Muslim Leaguer, but as Parliamentary Secretary to the Government of Bengal. Need I tell you that for the people to whom it was addressed a request from a Parliamentary Secretary in the language in which it was couched is as good as an order?

Let us, Sir, come from the written words of the Khan Sahib to his spoken words. I would refer to unstarred question No. 92 of the 19th December, 1942. Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal asked what was the cause of delay in appointing nominated members to certain district boards and municipalities in the province, and the Khan Sahib replied on behalf of Government: "Delay in each case was due to the fact that in each case, a reference had got to be made to the Chief Whip of Government". Dr. Sanyal asked what was the function exercised by the Chief Whip in these matters and, the Khan Sahib gave the most ridiculous reply that it was the known policy of Government that reference should be made in these matters to the Government Chief Whip. Having realised the ridiculousness of the position that he took up he tried to wriggle out of the position by saying that this practice was initiated probably by the previous Ministry. But when I asked: "Would the Government state whether any reference was made to the records of the past Government to show that this malpractice was initiated by the past Government", the Khan Sahib said "no". Then Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar and Dr. Sanyal asked whether Government knew that the past Government issued a standing circular to the effect that in all matters relating to nomination to local bodies, the local M.L.As. should be consulted and the Khan Sahib replied that he was *not* aware.

Now, Sir, apart from the question of precedent, I put the question straight to the Government what are the reasons for making a reference to the Government Chief Whip in the matter of nomination to local bodies unless the reasons be political, personal and even family reasons. I shall give an instance which shows how political, personal and family

reasons have been brought to bear upon municipal nominations. I refer to the Dacca Municipality. The elections of the Dacca Municipality were held about 12 months back; the newly elected commissioners were waiting to elect their office-bearers, namely, Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Month after month passed, but the municipal commissioners could not elect their office-bearers in the absence of nomination by Government. No announcement was made by Government for about twelve months, and, Sir, do you know what was the reason why no announcement was made in time? Because Government wanted a gentleman to be nominated and they wanted him to be elected as Vice-Chairman of the municipality—a gentleman who is a most insignificant member of the Muslim League, but who is a member of Sir Nazimuddin's own family and who is a member of his party in this House. Now, Sir, this gentleman got involved in a street accident; he got his leg fractured; he was confined to bed; and the nominations were held up, because this gentleman would not be able to attend the election meeting and would not be able to get himself elected Vice-Chairman. The nominations were announced as soon as he was physically fit to go to the election meeting. Sir, I might add other instances from my own district of Dacca. I know that there was a tussle between Hon'ble Mr. Shahabuddin and the District Magistrate of Dacca over some nominations to some Union Boards. The District Magistrate of Dacca in good faith sent some nominations for publication. I suppose, Sir, in the matter of nominations to Union Boards, the District Magistrate is the supreme authority and the Ministry can intervene only in exceptional circumstances. In this case, nominations were made by the District Magistrate in good faith. But the Minister, Mr. Shahabuddin, wanted his men to go and he wanted the District Magistrate to recommend his men. Now, Sir, almost under duress the European District Magistrate wrote "personally, I would like my former nominations to stand, but inasmuch as the Hon'ble Minister wants his men to go, I have to yield." That was his recommendation. Sir, this is scandalous.

Even today in reply to a question, Government had to say: "Yes. The Government Chief Whip is referred to in these matters." "Why" we asked, and the answer was "because he is conversant with public opinion in all the areas." It is ridiculous to suggest that the Government Chief Whip knows more about, say, for example the Comilla district than my honourable friend Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta or that he knows more about Berhampore than my honourable friend Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal? Then why should the Chief Whip be referred to in these matters? For aught we know, the redoubtable Chief Whip of the Government Party, who represents the Dacca University may know something about education or may know nothing about education. The redoubtable Chief Whip of the Government Party who is a constitutional Pandit or a constitutional Maulvi in this House may know something about constitution or may know nothing about constitution. But one thing about which there is no doubt is this that he knows nothing about Self-Government. Why, then, Sir, has any reference to be made to him unless it be for jobbery and nepotism of the worst type? This is scandalous. This must be ended. With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, you need not move your motion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I shall not move my motion. Sir, like other departments of Government, the department responsible for general administration is not above corruption and is not being run efficiently. It has earned notoriety for favouritism shown in the matter of appointments, postings and transfers. The Department has sacrificed all principles, policy, even decency and above all efficiency, equity and justice for the sake of favouritism and distribution of patronage. Instances, Sir, can be multiplied. There are numerous instances of

favouritism, but I shall mention here only one or two, but before doing so, I shall particularly deal with the motion which I have tabled though, as I said before, I am not moving it.

Sir, since the inauguration of Montford Reforms till 31st August, 1932, prior to the separation of the Council from the parent Legislative Department, Assistants and typists of the Council Section of the Legislative Department were in receipt of an over-time allowance to compensate them for the observance of longer hours of duty. In fact the Governor had fixed the hours of the Council sittings at 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., to suit the convenience of the M.L.C.s. most of whom were drawn from professionals or businessmen. These hours were their leisure periods and were not necessitated by the actual state of office work, so far as the Council Section of the Legislative Department was concerned. The allowance was granted only when the meeting was extended beyond 7 p.m. at the rate of Rs.5, Rs.4, Rs.3 per day for upper division and lower division assistants and typists respectively. The staff in other Government departments did not receive any overtime allowance as they were not required to observe such longer hours of duty consisting of non-Secretariat work as was done by the Council Section of the Legislative Department.

That the grant of such an allowance was justified was elicited in a reply to a Council question in 1929, given by the then Finance Member, Mr. Marr.

In 1932, the Swan Retrenchment Committee recommended the abolition of the over-time allowance.

Accordingly it was decided to incorporate the allowance in the pay of the staff when it would be fixed.

But unfortunately this was not done on the inauguration of the Hoare-Willingdon Reforms. While the pay of the lower division assistants was fixed in the same scale as that in the Secretariat that of the upper division assistants fell far below that of their compatriots in the Secretariat. In fact, an upper division assistant of the Assembly Department loses Rs.8,520 during his 24 years' of service as compared with an upper division assistant of the Secretariat. The upper division scale in the Assembly Department is Rs.115—15/2—220—20/2—300, while the upper division scale of the Secretariat is Rs. 115—20/2—215—25/2—290—20/2—350 with the prospect of being made Head Assistant with an additional allowance of Rs.85 per month.

It will appear, however, that the pressure of work in the present House of 250 members holding sessions for about 8 months in the year on an average cannot compare with the pressure of work in a House of only 130 members sitting for 2 months at most during the period 1921-1932. If such conditions prevailing from 1921 till 1932 justified the grant of an over-time allowance to the staff of the Council Section of the Legislative Department how much more equitable is the claim for such an allowance under the conditions now prevailing?

The pressure of work at present will be appreciated, when it is remembered that for two weeks before and after a session the staff is fully engaged. Taking the average number of sessions as three in a year the total period during which the staff is fully engaged foregoing Sundays and other holidays intervening during the period is 11 months. One month is really the slack season and is spent in Puja, Easter, Christmas and other holidays.

In order to maintain liaison with the different Departments of Government, the Assembly Department has to observe the normal hours of duty for those Departments, namely, 10-30 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition the Assembly Department has to work beyond 8 p.m. for 8 months in the year on an average due to the holding of sessions. As has already been pointed out it is only for 3 months that the Assembly Department is in a position to observe the normal hours of duty for Government offices.

The need for accuracy of work in connection with the conduct of business in the House which is scrupulous as regards the maintenance of its dignity, rights and privileges cannot be over-stressed.

Under somewhat similar circumstances the staff in the Governor's Secretariat is compensated by the grant of an allowance equal to 10 per cent. of their pay subject to a maximum of Rs.30. Please refer to Assembly question No. 305 by Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal on the 17th May, 1944.

With regard to pay and prospects of the staff of the Assembly, I would invite attention to the farewell speech made by the ex-Speaker, Sir Md. Azizul Huque, on the 13th March, 1942.

I have also to say a few words about the condition of service in the Assembly Library. The staff in the Library Department have to serve both the Assembly and the Council. The Librarian who is an M.A. (Second Class) and who has got Library training under the Government of India and also a Certificate from the London Library Association, draws a scale of pay of Rs.130—10/2—160—5/2—175 only. I have also to refer to the case of the Lady Assistant to the Librarian. She is an Honours graduate and is a trained Librarian. She draws a ridiculously low pay. She is in the time-scale of Rs.45—47—4/2—75. Sir, there must be immediate revision in the scale of pay of the Library staff.

Sir, a great injustice is being done to the menials, orderlies, peons, duftries and such other staff of the Assembly Department. Sir, their hard lot is known to you very well. They work for the longest hours specially during the Assembly sessions and they are the most lowly paid servants of the Assembly Department. Their hardship should not also be forgotten.

Sir, I have also to refer with regret that Government are unduly interfering with this Department over the head of the Hon'ble Speaker. As members of this House, we feel that nobody else besides the Hon'ble Speaker should handle the Department. It is really encroaching upon the rights and privileges of this House that Government should meddle in matters affecting the Department over the head of the Hon'ble Speaker.

Sir, I was mentioning about corruption regarding appointment, transfer and posting. Sir, there have been four questions and answers regarding this subject. One was starred question No. 9 of Mr. Hirtzel, the other two were Nos. 26 and 39 and the last one is unstarred No. 62. I will refer to you, Sir, to starred question No. 9 and unstarred No. 62. You will be surprised to find that there the Government are unscrupulous even in their replies. The replies are evasive, incomplete and without any meaning, though there was a definite notice given. You will find that in answer to the question put by Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel, starred No. 9, when he asked, what is the average period of office of Subdivisional Officers throughout the province, the reply was, before the war, the practice was to make the period of office of Subdivisional Officers about three years on the average; at present, owing to war conditions, the period has come down to about one year. Now, Sir, to suit their convenience this reply was given a go-bye and another reply quite contrary to the former was given the other day, when I put my unstarred question No. 62. It was in respect of the transfer of Maulvi Panaullah Ahmed, Subdivisional Officer of Balurghat and Babu Baneswar Barman, Inspector of Police, at Dinajpur. (At this stage the blue light was lit)——Sir, will you kindly allow me another ten minutes to conclude my speech?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How can I allow you more time when I cannot do so in the case of others.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, you have allowed more time to another member and I hope you will extend the same favour to Mr. Kundu.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How long will you take, Mr. Kundu?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I want another seven minutes; at least give me five minutes more.

Sir, in reply to the question put by Mr. Hirtzel, it was stated that owing to war conditions the period has been reduced from three years to one year. But when I put a similar question, the information supplied was that there are no definite orders fixing a period during which Executive Officers shall normally remain in any station, but officers in the general line are not ordinarily kept in one district for more than three years. This was in connection with the transfer of Maulvi Panaullah Ahmed of Natore fame, who was placed in charge of the subdivision of Balurghat for more than three years. He granted a ration shop to his chaprassi. There is a civil suit pending against him at Dinajpur and he was under orders of transfer after elapse of about three years, but the transfer was cancelled at his instance only to give him undue advantage to be taken by him in regard to that civil suit. However, Sir, I am glad to say that Government agreed to consider the question of transfer of these gentlemen. As regards Babu Baneswar Barman, you will be surprised to learn that he was a Sub-Inspector of Police in Dinajpur, in different police-stations for over twelve years and he has been in the Dinajpur town as Inspector of Police for another twelve years again. So he has been continuously stationed in Dinajpur for over twenty-four years. Sir, there are many other instances like this.

Then, Sir, the Secretaries and the Assistants in the Secretariat do not care to attend to public calls They never or seldom reply to letters and application sent to them regarding important matters. I would warn them that they are paid to attend to public calls and this dereliction on their part will neither be tolerated nor forgotten by the public, and they will have in the very near future to explain their conduct. Only the other day it transpired that applications and letters written by security prisoners were not attended to, but they were kept in the office unattended for years I referred the matter to Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali, who has been taking a keen interest in these security prisoners and I told him that now that there were so many security prisoners that they should form a separate department of Government for this. In this connection, Sir, I am drawing your attention to the telegram which was sent regarding Shree Nitai Chandra Jana, a security prisoner, from his sister Susila Bala Debi, but this has not been attended to up till now. This was a telegram for leave to see his old father ailing from pneumonia.

Then, Sir, there are other matters to which I should like to refer. If you will look into the Red Book, you will find that about Rs 5,50,000 allotted under this head for re-excavation and excavation of tanks and rehabilitation programme was not spent. Sir, it has been the fashion to show in the budget large provisions and then not to spend them. It is for this reason that we do not depend on the budgeted figures. Such budgeting is not proper as there is no guarantee for appropriation. The nation-building departments have been complaining of paucity of funds and the Education Department has not been able to provide for dearness allowance to poorly paid primary and secondary school teachers but Government have liberally been providing money elsewhere. If you will kindly examine the figures between 1943-44 and those of 1944-45 and 1945-46, regarding emoluments to Parliamentary Secretaries they will see that the expenditure under that head is going to be increased by leaps and bounds. They have also made increased provisions for members and they have also allotted money, as I said the other day, for the repairs of houses to suit the convenience of one of the Ministers. I shall also refer to one other matter and conclude. The Government Communications and Works Department Workers' Union, Bengal, sent a representation by way of an appeal to this department, one month back

for the remedy of their very modest and legitimate grievances, but this appeal has not been attended to. In this way I can add to the numerous cases, I have cited of the neglect of duty on the part of Government officials.

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about (*i*) the matter of appointment of the Scheduled Castes in services under Government in spite of the Communal Ratio Rules, and (*ii*) the personnel of the Public Service Commission in Bengal.

Sir, ১৯৪০ সালের ১৮ই মার্চ্চ তারিখে Service Ratio Rules introduce হবার পর থেকে এযাবৎকাল বাংলা Governmentএর সমস্ত বিভাগের তপশীলভুক্ত জাতি হতে যে হারে চাকরী দেওয়া হয়েছে তাতে এই যে Rules কেন পাশ হ'লো তার কোন কারণ খুঁজে পাওয়া যায় না। যে হারে চাকরী দেওয়া হচ্ছে তা দেখলে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির আর কোন আশা থাকে না। ১৯৪৪ সালে পুলিশের Sub-Inspectors ১০০টি লোক নেওয়া হয়েছিল। তাতে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতি থেকে নেওয়া হয়েছে ১০ জন, Caste হিন্দু নেওয়া হয়েছে ২৪ জন আর মুসলমান নেওয়া হয়েছে ৬৬ জন। যদি ঐ Service Ratio Rules মানা যায় তাহলে এখানে ১৫ জন তপশীলভুক্ত জাতি থেকে নেওয়া উচিত ছিল। যখন এই Government আরম্ভ হয় তখন এই Cabinetএ তিনজন তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির Minister নিয়ে বর্ত্তমান Government Party অর্থাৎ League Party দেখিয়েছিল যে আমরা তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির প্রতি অত্যন্ত দরদী। যদি তিনজন Ministers নিলে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির উপর দরদ শেষ হয়ে যায় তাহলে আমার আর কিছু বলবার নেই। কিন্তু তারপর থেকে দেখা যাচ্ছে যে service বা অন্য যে কোন ক্ষেত্রে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির উপর যতটকু সম্ভব অন্যায় এবং অবিচার করা হচ্ছে। এই যে serviceএর কথা বললাম এর মধ্যে ratio অনুসারে Caste Hindu'র পাওয়া উচিত ছিল ৩৫। আগে বলা হতো যে Caste হিন্দুরাই তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির উপর অন্যায় এবং অবিচার করেন, আর League Party থেকে দেখানো হয়েছিল যে আমরা হচ্চি অত্যন্ত দরদী। এবার এই দরদটা কোথায় গেল? এইযে ৬৬ জন লোক মুসলমান থেকে নেওয়া হলো সেটা তপশীলভুক্ত জাতি এবং বর্ণ হিন্দু উভয়ের হার থেকে কি নেওয়া হয়নি? এইভাবে যে কোন serviceএর ক্ষেত্রে দেখা যায় প্রত্যেক জায়গায় তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির প্রকৃত হার ত দূরের কথা বহু ক্ষেত্রে আদৌ নেওয়া হয় না। ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সালে যে Lawyer-Magistrate নেওয়া হয়েছিল সেখানেও দেখা গিয়েছে যে ৭০ জনের মধ্যে মাত্র ৭ জন নেওয়া হয়েছে। এখানেও সেই শতকরা ১৫র কথা আর উল্লেখ করা হয়নি। তারপর Civil Supplies Department—Civil Supplies Departmentএ যে অগণিত লোক নেওয়া হয়েছে তাতে যদি সেই একেবারে আর্দালী থেকে আরম্ভ করে আর উপরিতন officer পর্য্যন্ত ধরে তার ratio কষা যায় তাহলেও দেখা যাবে যে সেখানে শতকরা ৫।৬ জনের বেশী নেওয়া হয়নি। এই যে লোক নেওয়া হয়নি অনেক সময় বলা হয় যে উপযুক্ত প্রার্থী পাওয়া যায়নি বলে নেওয়া হয়নি, তা এই Civil Supplies Departmentএর আর্দালী, পিওন, ক্লার্ক দিয়েও কি এই ratio পূরণ করা যায়নি? এই Civil Supplies Departmentএ যে promotion দেওয়া হয়, আজ পর্য্যন্ত Sub-Inspector বা Inspectorএর উপরে মুসলমান বা বর্ণ হিন্দু সব জাতি থেকে promotion দেওয়া হয়েছে, কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত একজন তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির Inspectorকে promotion দেওয়া হয়নি। এইভাবে প্রত্যেক department দেখলেই দেখা যায় যে আর কোন জায়গায় তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির ন্যায্য যে পাওনা তা দেওয়া হয় না।

বর্ত্তমানে Fishery Department একটা নূতন খোলা হয়েছে; সেখানে একজন লোককেও নেওয়া হয়নি। Fishery Departmentএর উপরিতন serviceএ হয়ত তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির candidate না পাওয়া যেতে পারে, কারণ সেখানে খানিকটা technical শিক্ষার কথা আছে। যদি ratio পূরণ করার ইচ্ছা Governmentএর থাকে তাহলে নীচের clerk বা অন্যান্য service দিয়েও ratio পূরণ করা উচিত। এরপর শিক্ষা বিভাগের চাকরী দেওয়া ত দূরের কথা, Sub-Inspector বা ঐ rankএর যে service আছে তার জন্য প্রতি বৎসর যে panel করা হয়, এই panelএ আমি জানি যে বহু প্রার্থী যেয়েও তারা selected হয় না। গত বৎসর যখন Sub-Inspectorএর এই panel করা হচ্ছিল সেই সময় মুর্শিদাবাদের জুবাংত শেখর দাস উপযুক্ত প্রার্থী ছিল, কারণ যে qualification চাওয়া হয়েছিল তার সে qualificationএর একটুও কম ছিল না। (Hear, hear.) তাকে ডেকে আনা

হয়েছিল Selection Boardএর সামনে। Selection Boardএর সামনে তাকে না যেতে দিয়ে যখন সে waiting roomএ অপেক্ষা করছিল, সেই সময় তাকে একজন কেরাণী দিয়ে সংবাদ দেওয়া হোলো যে তোমাকে select করা হবে না, তুমি চলে যাও। সে উপযুক্ত কিনা, দেখা হোলো না, তাকে সামনে নেওয়া হোলো না, তাকে test করা হোলো না। তাকে এই পথ অকারণ খরচ করিয়ে আনা হোলো। এর কারণ কি আমরা বুঝতে পারি না।

বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের সমস্ত service ratio অনুসারে লোক নেওয়া হচ্চে কিনা এ দেখবার জন্য একজন Officer appoint করা হয়েছিল, কিন্তু তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির দুর্ভাগ্য যে সেই Officer নিযুক্ত হওয়ার পরে তাদের প্রকৃত শতকরা ১৫'র কথা দূরে থাক, যদি গড় অঙ্ক কষা যায় তাহলে আজ পর্য্যন্ত শতকরা সাড়ের বেশী হয় না। এইজন্য এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি বলতে চাই যে, চাকরীতে কি হারে লোক নেওয়া হচ্চে তা দেখবার জন্য Government থেকে একটা committee করা বিশেষ আবশ্যক এবং সেই committeeতে উপযুক্ত সংখ্যক তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির members থাকা বিশেষ আবশ্যক।

Mrs. NELLIE SEN GUPTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about maladministration resulting in suffering to the people.

Sir, I have to speak on a very serious matter today. No other member from Chittagong has taken up this matter. It is the matter of venereal disease in Chittagong. I do not think that Government realise what a serious thing it has become there. People may starve, they may die; they may starve and they may live and to a certain extent they can get on. But what does this mean? It means that the next generation is going to suffer and for years the people of Chittagong have to suffer from this scourge.

You have given two lakhs for the betterment and rehabilitation of Chittagong, but do you know how this money has been spent? Are you really advised as to how it has gone? Have all the houses you expected to be built with that money for rehabilitation been really built? Have cottage industries been really started for the poor and for the help of those poor people who have lost practically everything?

It is the fault of poverty that this has come about. Women of Chittagong were not bad before, but they are bad through actual want and poverty and certainly in Chittagong, it has been absolute want. Even now rice is again being sold at 2 and 2½ seers for a rupee. For months they had no sugar in the villages. I say they had not, because I hear that sugar is being sent and I hope that it is so. Vegetables and everything that is necessary are still being sold in villages at a much higher price than here in Calcutta. Even tobacco which the cultivator needs badly is sold at Rs.4 a seer. After meeting his needs there is going to be very little to be left for his wife to buy her clothes. Women have not been able to buy clothes; they have not been able to buy soap to wash the rags that they have. Is it to be wondered at that these women nearly mad with hunger and desperation have taken to the labour corps which they think might be an easy way out of their trouble.

Then again, I ask you to do away with this female labour corps. They have become a source of danger in Chittagong. When I first saw these women working I was rather pleased. I felt that here is a mother, here is a sister, here are young people working, but since then I hear that there is a very great danger to Chittagong. I would ask the Government to see that the two lakhs that they have given is really well-spent. I do not want the generation coming to Chittagong to be ruined for life.

Then, Sir, epidemic is still raging fiercely in Chittagong. I have with me here a long list, but I think I have no time to read out much of this, but I would give you just a few particulars. In one village there are 1,967 patients of which 1,800 are new and at least 10 per cent. of them are suffering from venereal diseases. In another small village there are 3,627 cases, new 1,400. There are many medical units working

in those places and I cannot understand why the Government will not work with these units. It is not a picnic for these young men to go to Chittagong and work. It is sheer hard labour and yet Government is refusing to give them quinine, when they need it. They had a truck at one time. They carried it round the villages and distributed quinine, but that truck has now been refused. Do you know what it means getting medicines and food from one village to another? I fully understand with a little stock that I had in my hand how difficult it was to get from one place to another.

There is another matter on which I want to say that Government is very slack about. That is about these boys. Some of them have taken part in politics. Some of them are so young that they have even now taken no prominent part in politics. They come to Calcutta. They get jobs. They work not for six months or one year, sometimes for two years, three years. Suddenly police reports come and those boys are thrown out of their jobs. What are the boys going to do? When they try to secure jobs somewhere else, they are asked "why did you leave your previous jobs?" They say it was due to police reports. I ask you what chance those boys have in getting other jobs? I have been successful in getting jobs for some of the boys, but it is impossible to find room for all of those boys. If the police report came after a month and the boy was dismissed, then I might understand that. But I know of a case where a boy worked for three years in a place giving entire satisfaction to the employer. After this experience I got a job for him in another place at a good pay and entirely given to war work. Suddenly from the blue came a police report and the boy was asked to go away. For six months I have been trying my best to get that boy's case settled. This boy has not taken any large part in politics, but boys of these days are expected to take some parts in politics. (Cries of "hear, hear" from the Opposition Benches). This boy only mixed with some boys who took active part in politics. He at least for many years had not taken any part. An officer has said that there is no reason why that boy should not continue to work. For six months he has lost his pay nearly Rs.1,000 and you know what this amount means? And even now he does not know whether he is to get his job or whether he is to lose it, and for what reason? What has he done? This is one instance. I can cite dozen instances and do you know how I feel when these boys come to me? I feel I am with the boys that having done nothing and meaning nothing, they are being penalised. I did not say what I think to the boys; so the Ministry need not be afraid. But it is a shame. Are you not bringing in a nation of bitter boys? When the boys are trying their best to work and to lead good lives and to be good citizens, you suddenly bring in police reports, not after one month but after the boys have worked for three or four years. No fires took place in the office; there have been no strikes. It is perfectly plain that the boys have not been organising any mischief, and yet you bring down a bolt from the blue on them and you ruin their lives. Sometimes it seems to me that the Government is anxious to make the boys unfriendly towards Government. What else can they be? You have taken away their jobs. You have taken away everything that they want to have in life. When they are trying to do their best, they are getting nothing but worries, anxieties and often starvation. (Applause).

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes).

(After Adjournment.)

Mr. C. MACINTOSH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few words on the part played by Local Bodies in the administration of the province. It will not be disputed that local bodies form an important

part of the administrative machinery of the province. In fact, Sir, it was the view of the writers of the Montagu-Chelmsford report that, if they were efficiently and progressively run, they should form a major part of the administrative machinery. It has, however, been apparent for some years that many local bodies are not progressing, either in their standards of administration or in the scope of their activities, and I think it is high time that Government gave this matter some attention. For many years departmental reports on the working of the local bodies have noted the same defects, but nothing is done to correct the defects and, so far as can be seen, the local bodies receive no advice and assistance from Government to remedy the defects. Government's Local Self-Government Department has never been developed, and the departmental reports appear much too late to be of any value. Local bodies are left to sink or swim until the time comes when Government are compelled to supersede them. I feel, Sir, that supersession could in many cases be avoided if Government had given local bodies advice and assistance that they required. The War has increased the difficulties of local bodies and I feel that Government can no longer afford to neglect this problem. I would like to refer in detail to some of the difficulties and to suggest some remedies.

District Boards are suffering from the handicap of decreasing finances, and this, coupled with increased staff emoluments and present rates of dearness allowance, necessitated by the high cost of food and other consumer goods, has meant that most District Boards have reluctantly had to face a decrease in the amount of useful work they have been able to accomplish in their respective areas.

In endeavouring to maintain their public health, sanitation, kala-azar, anti-malaria, hospital and dispensary commitments, they, for the most part, have had to accept a gradual deterioration of the road system of their areas, and have been unable to undertake any new commitments in this respect, many of which are long overdue, for the opening up of their rural areas. The remedy for this state of affairs would seem to be -

First.—A revision of cess, as in some khas mahal areas no such revision has taken place for fully 30 years. I particularly stress this need in the case of District Boards whose proved record of successful and honest administration entitle them to such consideration at the hands of Government.

Second.—An increased subvention from Government's provincial revenue to Boards for items of a purely public health nature, so that the funds from local revenues now diverted into those channels could be used for opening up of communications in rural areas.

Third.—The strengthening of the Local Self-Government Department by the appointment of, say, one Deputy Secretary and a Special Officer for each of the five divisions in the province whose chief function would be to provide a means of more direct approach and closer liaison between District Boards, Municipalities, etc., and speed up contact between these bodies and the Secretary of the Local Self-Government Department in Calcutta.

Such appointments would also provide, by periodical visits upcountry, a closer element of supervision over Boards whose administration methods require tightening up.

The same remarks apply in a lesser degree to local boards, although I personally feel that, with the gradual opening up of communications in rural areas their functions could be more efficiently carried out by the District Boards, to whom they owe allegiance, and at a less cost to their respective districts.

In the case of Municipalities here again the difference in performance is most marked, and is, I am afraid, in a great measure due to the lack

of an efficient executive officer who would carry out the instructions and orders of the municipal commissioners, in much the same fashion as a Town Clerk or County Council Officer and their staff do in the United Kingdom. In the 1940-41 reports of the Government of Bengal on municipalities we find that in the case of those which are well run collections of rates and taxes reach as high as 98·6 per cent. but in 13 out of 118 municipalities, collections did not reach 50 per cent. of their total demands.

Any comparisons made between such wide margins of collections some 3 or 4 years in retrospect, offer little chance of assistance or encouragement to municipal commissioners to improve their position and until more up-to-date comparisons are published, followed up by tactful advice and assistance from a Government Department, anxious to assist the work of non-official chairmen to remedy such a state of affairs, we cannot expect the progress or the efficiency such as are necessary to encourage a spirit of good citizenship which it is so desirable should be built up in the province for its own good.

In my opinion, such help, tactfully given, by direct contact from officers such as I have earlier suggested, would be of great value in assisting those who have been public spirited enough to take up the work of running municipal affairs and by early tactful and experienced advice, keep them interested in their honorary work, as they see positive results from their labours.

In regard to Union Boards, the quality and usefulness of such are in the main governed by the activity and public spirit of their chairmen, and also by the interest taken by District Officers in their activities. Too often the district officers are overburdened with work at headquarters nowadays and cannot see enough of their districts.

It is very often the case that a union board which gave promise of being a useful asset to the particular rural community becomes inefficient and ineffective because of lack of that little encouragement and help a District Officer could give.

In this connection it would appear that the best method for assistance would be the partitioning of present District Officers' charges into more manageable units and so enable him to give advise and assistance, and above all, encouragement, to such local self-governing institutions.

Then there are the Union Benches and Bench courts. These could be admirable and efficient additions to the administrative feature of every district in Bengal, particularly in rural areas. With proper encouragement they would assist greatly in inculcating a sense of responsibility for the welfare of their areas into those appointed by Government to run them. They afford speedy redress to litigants and are a great saving of time to overworked S.D.O's and Munsiff's courts.

There has been a good deal of criticism of the system of nomination to local bodies, and I am quite well aware that there is a fairly extensive feeling in some quarters that nominations particularly to District Boards are used purely for political patronage.

There is a certain amount of truth in this assertion, but I submit, Sir, that hitherto, it has been found, on Boards where nominations have been exercised by District Officers and not overruled by political bias, the type of person so nominated has been well worthy of the seats so allotted and have for the most part ably assisted in making the Boards and public bodies they have been nominated to, honestly run and properly managed institutions.

I am not, therefore, in favour of the abolition of nominations but if nomination is to be discontinued at a future date, I suggest that an alternative form of representation be evolved for the retention of such members whose influence has always been on the side of progress and good administration.

Sir, in putting forward these suggestions for improvement in local self-government bodies such as District Boards, Municipalities, etc., I speak with a certain amount of knowledge and experience gained over a period of over 25 years connection with upcountry and rural self-governing institutions, and while I realize the weaknesses and difficulties Government have to overcome in their dealings with local bodies in many cases, I also have in that period of service realized that with proper guidance and encouragement such institutions will always bring to their service some citizens who are activated by a wish to serve their community with the necessary encouragement being given to such men in the early periods of their efforts, there would gradually develop a greater measure of public spiritedness which would in time reflect its benefits over the whole life of the province.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw attention of the Hon'ble Home Minister to a motion that was given notice of by Mr. Satya Priya Banerjee about failure of Government to furnish grounds of order of detention in many cases in accordance with section 7 of Ordinance III of 1944. Sir, you are aware that section 7 of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance III of 1944 makes a mandatory provision that the grounds and particulars of charges should be forwarded to the detenu within as soon as may be possible at least before the expiry of six months when their cases are reviewed. But I may tell the House that this provision has not been observed. Only yesterday there was a case before the Hon'ble the High Court where the Deputy Secretary of the Government did communicate to their Lordships that with regard to Dr. Bepin Behary Ganguly, a Councillor of the Calcutta Corporation, there is no record to show that such grounds had been served. They only could say so far that it appeared that grounds were sent to the Jail authorities but there was no evidence that those were served. This is only one of the many cases where Government is totally ignoring the provisions of the Ordinances for detention and we also know that though in the Nagpur High Court Government officers withholding petitions submitted to the High Court had been guilty of contempt of court, Bengal Government have withheld communications made by these detenus to the Chief Justice of Bengal. I will give only one instance. On the 15th July 1944, Babu Bepin Behary Ganguly sent a petition to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court stating that he had not received grounds and making other complaints but that petition of his has not been forwarded and no reply has been received up till now. (MR. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Scandalous!) You are aware, Sir, that after discussion on the detention cases, both the Calcutta High Court and the Judges of the Federal Court of India said that in England there was a committee before whom grounds are submitted and the detenus can make representations and those are heard there. Here no such non-official committee was appointed and yet provisions have been made that grounds will be submitted but that valued right has been denied to these helpless detenus. I want the Hon'ble the Home Minister to tell the House why this has been done.

There is only one other matter which I shall only touch upon, and that is the question of hardship caused by the frequent change of the promotion rules, particularly with regard to the Bengal Junior Civil Service people. There was a rule that only those who have completed fifteen years' service will be considered for promotion and those who have not completed fifteen years' service cannot get nomination. Then again the rule has been changed that if one is over forty years of age his name cannot be sent up. These changes in the promotion rules have resulted in great hardship and has worked prejudicially to many deserving Government servants who have made representation to us. Then again, members of the Public Service Commission are also conscious that great hardship is being caused but

Government is not moving in the right direction. Sir, the time at my disposal is very short and I would not take up the time of the House any more and I would expect that the Home Minister will satisfy the House on the two points that I have raised.

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed has raised several points in his cut motion No. 176. He has stated about the money spent on this department has been wasted. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Squandered). He has enquired about the functions of the Publicity Officer. He has questioned the utility of the "Bengal Weekly" and the "Banglar Katha", and lastly he has also questioned the need for maintaining the Publicity Department. These are all the points he has raised in his speech concerning my department. I propose to deal with them one by one.

Now, Sir, during 1944-45 Rs. 9,10,800 has been spent on the entire Publicity Department. The total revenue expenditure in the year was Rs. 4,700. Thus the actual expenditure of the Publicity Department is a negligible function of the total revenue expenditure of the Government—only about three pies in a rupee. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Only?) (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All this statistics is humbug) .....Have patience to listen to me. Now, Sir, in other countries, more advanced and better organised, the proportion of expenditure on publicity is much higher than.....(DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Where?) In the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Russia. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You are following your masters then?) Sir, this expenditure is trivial when we take into consideration the nature and extent of the work undertaken by this department.....(DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There is no Publicity Minister either in England or in the United States of America and my friend is quoting the United Kingdom and America not knowing that he is in pitfalls when he quotes like that.) Mr. Branden Bracken is the Minister for Information in England. (MR. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: It is simply ludicrous to compare this Government with the United Kingdom and the United States of America). Question of comparison does not arise. Sir, this expenditure, as I was submitting, is very small taking into consideration the nature and extent of the work undertaken by the department and the publicity officers working both in the districts. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a publicity machine which makes publicity with your beautiful photographs only).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, sometimes interruptions are pertinent and reasonable and are permissible but this sort of running comment is very tiresome to the Hon'ble Minister and to the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: These officers are the link between the Government and the people. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: And they get your inspiration). Now, Sir, they have a two-fold duty to perform: first to report to Government the true needs of the people and to interpret the policy of Government. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: And arrange for the Ministers' tours and their garlanding). I think this sort of running comments should be stopped; otherwise, I cannot proceed. (Cries of "Sit down, sit down" from the Opposition benches).

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, members of the Opposition have made some criticism and the Government point of view is being explained by the Hon'ble Minister and he should be given a patient hearing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I again appeal to the members of the Opposition not to interrupt the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: First of all, Sir, they report to Government the true needs of the people and secondly they

interpret the policy of Government to the people in an easy and intelligible manner so that they may take the fullest advantage of the Government's beneficial measures.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why do you say "Look out—then walk"? Why not "Look out—then drive"? Why do you spend money on foolish advertisements?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made requests. You are not listening to my repeated requests.

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: These Publicity Officers have explicit instructions not to identify themselves with any local party. It has been impressed upon them that they serve a cause and not a party and so whatever party comes into power, they would still be serving the Government of the day (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Only the Ministers on tour are garlanded and photographed.) Strictest disciplinary measures will be taken if any of these officers is found identifying himself with any of the local parties or local factions.

Now, Sir, he has questioned also about the utility of the "Bengal Weekly" and the "Banglar Katha." The "Bengal Weekly" and the "Banglar Katha" are complete newspapers and contain ... ... (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Undiluted untruths) unadulterated version of every news, absolutely (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Absolutely rotten and rubbish) free from colour which party papers are apt to have. They reach every village, every thana, every institution and reading room of any consequence; in fact, they reach the common citizen who should know and is anxious to know all about Government orders, controls, amendments and other notifications issued from time to time for his benefit and protection. They carry articles and expert writings on nation-building topics, on seeds, manures, crop pests and diseases, on the care of live-stocks, on public health and education, on eradication of diseases, on industries and handicrafts, on co-operation, on food supplies and prices and also war news and comments and, in fact, on everything that affects the day to day life of the people, high and low. The circulation of the "Bengal Weekly," is 7,400 and that of the "Banglar Katha" 30,500. Now, Sir, on account of the Paper Control (Economy) Order we have been compelled to disappoint many new applications for their supply. I am proud to say (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That your photo is well-displayed) that these papers are popular.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, quite apart from the merits of the speech of the Hon'ble Minister, I should not join in a demonstration against such a sweet-mannered Minister. He is personally so sweet-mannered that it pains me to see that he is obstructed.

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARI MULLICK: I am grateful to the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party.

Sir, the need for maintaing the Publicity Department has also been questioned. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We are all convinced that if there is no department, how can there be a Minister.) This department was started when the present Leader of the Opposition was the head of the Government. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No Minister was there.) Yes, there was. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There was no Publicity Minister). Mr. Fazlul Huq was then the Publicity Minister. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He was the Home Minister). He was also the Publicity Minister.

Sir, Dr. Sanyal is obstructing every time. He has no patience and he has no sense of decency. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There is no sense of truth in your speech.)

Sir, as I was submitting, this department was started by Mr. Fazlul Huq when he was the head of the Government and it was he who stoutly defended on the floor of this House the need for maintaining a Publicity Department. Let me quote a few lines from his speech in August, 1938. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The same old bureaucracy rules. They are all tools in the hands of the bureaucracy.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you are really making it impossible for the proceedings to be carried on.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Have you got anything new from his speech?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am listening to him but if you do not find anything new, it is better for you to retire.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, this is deliberate obstruction of the proceedings of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, Mr. Fazlul Huq said in 1938: "Even in Congress provinces which are supposed to have leading newspapers of their own, they have got Publicity Department, but what is our position here? It is a matter of extreme regret that we are subjected to criticism, fair or unfair, for everything we do and instead of receiving fair criticism we have got nothing but misrepresentation of our aims, our aspirations and our activities. The Publicity Department is necessary because thereby even the Opposition may have facts to criticize and advise Government."

Sir, these then were the declared objects for which the Publicity Department was started. Since its inception, Sir, we have only expanded it so that it could function usefully. Now, Sir, I submit that the expansion has not been able to keep pace with the growing complexities of the administration. I strongly feel that there is room for still further expansion. We have been attempting more and more to enlighten the masses in the ways of their own betterment and for this purpose I feel that our existing publicity machinery is still inadequate.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the cut motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I invite the attention of the Chief Minister to a telegram just now received from Chittagong: "Abdul Majid's house looted by armed military 15th March. Loss three thousand. Move Assembly immediately." (A MEMBER FROM THE COALITION BENCHES: To whom addressed?) The telegram is directed to me—Nalinaksha Sanyal, Assembly House.

Sir, I mention this thing in case the Chief Minister chooses to give some help. There is a motion about military excesses.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I would ask the members of the Opposition to kindly give me a patient hearing. They have raised certain important issues and for a day and a half they have levelled their criticism against Government. I think it is only fair that they should hear what the Government have to say. Certainly I will try not to use strong language, but if I say something which is not palatable to them, they will not at least interrupt me but listen to the truth .(MR. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Why not?) Because we did not interrupt you.

Sir, many important questions have been raised. I will consider three of the motions that have been moved—two by Dr. Sanyal and one by Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal. They raise important issues and I will deal with them towards the end.

Mrs. Nellie Sen Gupta in a very impassioned speech has described the conditions in Chittagong. I can assure her that we have taken special care

to look into the needs of Chittagong and in spite of various difficulties, we have tried to keep Chittagong supplied with food-stuffs and other necessaries of life. I will have an immediate enquiry made into the matters that she has referred to in her speech today and necessary action will be taken by Government if the facts, as stated by her, are found to be correct after proper enquiry. As regards the question of appointments which she referred to, this is a matter on which the Local Government has no say whatsoever except in case of departments of Government which have nothing to do with war. Of course I deal with such cases directly if they are brought to my notice. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Police reports cost their jobs!) Sir, this habit of Dr. Sanyal of always interrupting makes things so impossible. I have clearly stated that if police reports are sent, action is taken on behalf of the Government of India and not of the Government of Bengal and any action taken by any department is in accordance with the policy laid down by the Government of India and the Military authorities for security reasons over which the Local Government have no say whatsoever.

Now, Sir, there is another matter which I would like to bring to the notice of the House, and I really do not know what we can do against this continued practice of making allegations which have practically no basis whatsoever. A responsible member of this House stated today about the incident in Brahmanbaria and Sarail. Sir, ordinarily it is not within my personal knowledge when complaints of this nature are made and it is difficult to give a flat contradiction, but in this case I happened to be present on the occasion mentioned by the honourable member. (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Were you?) Yes, and I will state exactly what took place and honourable members will judge for themselves how the facts have been distorted. Now, Sir, this question of a large crowd having gathered and threatened Maulvi Abdul Mannan Thakur arose in this fashion. While we were going from Brahmanbaria to Sarail, on the way there were arches and people stood on the way and wanted us to stop for a minute or two at a particular place where more elaborate arrangements had been made and they wanted us to get down. We were in a hurry; actually we were behind time and we could not understand whether these people wanted us to go after they had garlanded us and we proceeded. The local people of this place thought that Maulvi Abdul Mannan Thakur who happened to be in our car stopped us from getting down at that place and they were infuriated and said that they would see Abdul Mannan Thakur at the time of the return journey. This was the incident, and it has been represented here as if he was accused of being a blackmarketeer; and for that reason there was a great demonstration (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Wonderful explanation!). At the meeting I have verified it again from Mr. Suhrawardy who was also present there. Not a word was said about Abdul Mannan Thakur being a blackmarketeer. It was a very big gathering and a most successful meeting, and after the meeting we had a talk with the people. Large crowds assembled round me and made complaints about scarcity of cloth. That was all that I know of, and there were a large number of people who pointed out that they had no cloth. So, Sir, as regards this kind of allegation which is very rare, I can definitely say that the statement that was made was not correct. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The statement is correct but the reason appears to be different.) Dr. Sanyal always builds up a false allegation on a certain basis and he distorts it and makes out that there is something very dirty and wrong. Always there is some basis for a statement, but you will find, Sir, that he always gives a colour to it, he adds to it in a way which has no foundation whatsoever.

Now, Sir, as far as the transfer of Mr. Baneswar Barman, Inspector of Police is concerned, I can say that it has been my policy never to interfere

in the posting and transfer of police officers below the rank of a Superintendent of Police and sometimes in the case of a Deputy Superintendent of Police. This is a matter entirely dealt with by the Inspector-General of Police; and if any officer has been at a particular place for a very long time and there was an allegation against him I certainly bring it to the notice of the Inspector-General and if he thinks it proper he will certainly take suitable action.

Then the next question is about appointment of Army Officers for civil duty. I feel that in this House I had more than once stated the reasons why we have been compelled to employ Army Officers. The dearth of officers was so great, the need for officers was so great and the work was suffering so much that we had to have recourse to the appointment of some Army Officers on a temporary basis. (MR. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Not on a temporary basis). It seems the honourable member knows much better than I do. (MR. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Army officers have been appointed as permanent I.C.S. officers). Sir, these officers have been lent to us to tide over the emergency, and I may state here that, as far as utilising our own officers is concerned by giving promotions to men from B.J.C.S. to B.C.S. and from other Services to B.J.C.S., we have practically reached the limit of that possibility; as far as possible with the assistance of the Public Service Commission we are trying to promote officers who are and can be suitable for these responsible duties. In spite of a very large number of promotions, once during the regime of Mr. Fazlul Huq during 1941-43 when about 150 officers were promoted to the B.J.C.S. from various Services. Since then we have promoted a large number of officers to the B.J.C.S. and we are going to promote about 59 officers from the B.J.C.S. to the B.C.S. In spite of this, the want of officers is there; the departments are expanded and these big question of controlling foodstuff supply when they come up it is impossible to cope with without adequate staff and officers. You cannot take up organisation and system of distribution from the trade and place the same in the hands of officers without increasing the staff and officers in the Government departments. Where the needs of thousands of men both in rural areas as well as in towns have to be supplied, it is not expected that a few officers of Government will in a day become businessmen and take over the entire question of distribution and control. If in certain cases there has been a certain amount of confusion, it is not due to inefficient management but it is due to the lack of officers in these departments, and we have tried as far as possible to utilise the Army officers in the Civil Supplies Department. There are very few instances where Army officers were doing regular District Officer's duties. Mr. Herbert is one and there may be a few others. The Army officers are employed mostly in the Civil Supplies Department to receive training and equip them with power of organising and controlling rations, foodstuffs and various other things. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: And also looting money, like Colonel Ottoway and Paine!) There may be some against whom there may be charges, and I may say in this connection that, as far as corruption is concerned, we hear on all sides about these allegations, but this Government are taking steps in every case that is brought to their notice and in every case that comes to their notice to have proper investigation and take action against the officers concerned, however highly paid they may be; and the very fact that action has been taken against such officers as Colonel Ottoway proves that mere position and rank of an officer does not protect him from being taken to task if we find there are sufficient materials to go against him.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Have not Government eyes to see?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: We have an Enforcement Department. Whenever I receive any complaints or the Department

receives any complaints about any officer, however highly placed he may be, who is trying to abuse his position, takes advantage of his position and makes some profit to himself, then we have an enquiry made immediately. You will find a large number of officers, Subdivisional Officers, Circle Officers, Supply Officers, etc., against whom proceedings have been drawn up. Some have been suspended and action is being taken daily whenever a reasonable case is made out. After all, there is the other side of the picture where people who are disappointed because a particular officer has not been able to comply with their unreasonable requests make allegations against him of corruption. At present, allegations of corruption are so prevalent because it is so easy to bring charges against persons who have got powers to give and to make a selection from a number of persons of a few persons for doing certain distribution or certain supply work. The officer has got to make a selection and it is very difficult to say whether a particular selection has been made for honesty or on account of preferential grounds or for some consideration. Therefore when you find that A has been selected and BCD not selected, immediately an allegation is made that it is due to some ulterior motive. I do not deny that in certain cases they are true, but in certain other cases they are also not correct. If an officer who has been trying honestly to do his work is harassed without any justification, then it discourages officers to assume responsibility during the time of stress. All the same, who have gone very far from the usual practice of not taking action unless there was a reasonable case made out. We have now issued circular letters to all the District Officers and Superintendents of Police drawing their attention to this prevalence of corruption and calling upon them to take action whenever they find reasonable grounds or a general repetition against any particular officer to hold an enquiry and if they find something to go upon, they should take action immediately. At the same time there is the enforcement department continually on the look out for these cases of corruption.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a huge hoax.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I believe that if we could catch some real culprits, it would prove that it is not a hoax especially if we catch those who are blackmarketing.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We bring definite cases to the notice of Government but the Department does not move in the matter.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Mr. Macintosh has raised certain questions about the administration of local bodies. He has made some constructive suggestions and other criticisms which I can assure him we will look into very carefully and any one of these which may find practicable we will try to give effect to. I do agree that there is more need for supervision and control over local bodies. We have already stated taking action, as you know, not only in the case of the Calcutta Corporation but also in the case of other municipalities and local bodies who have been negligent in their duties. I also agree with him that it is not only the Calcutta Corporation but also other municipalities who are not prepared to realise the taxes that are due. The figure that he has quoted, viz., 50 per cent. only of the total is being realised is proof positive that the municipal commissioners are not carrying on their duties properly. That is the only thing on which hinges the efficient administration of every municipality or local body. The statute has provided the way in which funds can be raised. If a municipality or corporation is not able to raise even the money to which it is entitled and call for assistance from Government, it seems to me to be unreasonable. Government is always ready to assist those who are trying to help themselves, who are trying to utilise those

provisions made in the Act for raising funds. If after that any municipality or corporation says "this is not sufficient, we want more for our public health work, we have done our bit and now let the Government come to our rescue" and if we fail, then we can be taken to task.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Have Government cleared up their arrears of taxes? (Cries of Ah, ah! from the Opposition benches).

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The cry of "ah, ah" is there, but they forget that 99 per cent. of Government rates and taxes are paid and many municipalities and even the Corporation can carry on only because they get Government taxes in time. In the case of the Calcutta Corporation, it is due because whether the Government is liable for the money or not is in dispute.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: How many years will the dispute go on?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: After the dispute has been settled, they cannot show that Government have defaulted.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That is the time honoured plea of every defaulting tax-payer.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I shall now say a few words about the communal ratio rules not being made applicable to Scheduled Castes. This is a question which is always giving me a great deal of trouble because I quite frankly admit that in the case of some appointments made recently and particularly in cases of promotion, it has not been possible to find an adequate number of men from the Scheduled Castes according to the proportion of the communal ratio rules. We are to a certain extent handicapped. Some of the appointments we have to make on the recommendations of the Public Service Commission and yet the Public Service Commission do not show us the way. It is very difficult for us to go and make the appointments outside the names mentioned by the Public Service Commission. Particularly in the case of lawyer magistrates, I have had great difficulty and as far as I am aware every one who has been recommended by the Public Service Commission has been given an appointment but if in any case in the case of Scheduled Castes, as far as lawyer-magistrates are concerned, I find that the Public Service Commission have sent up names and yet they have not received appointments, I can assure honourable members of Scheduled Castes supporting Government that immediately appointments will be made.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Why this assurance only to Scheduled Caste members supporting the Government?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Because this question was raised in a party meeting.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: You have not had the courtesy to address the Scheduled Caste members of the Opposition.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I addressed the Scheduled Caste members generally first. You please listen to me attentively, and you will grow wiser.

Sir, I shall now come to the question raised by Dr. Sanyal about lowering public morality by the influx of foreign soldiers in this city. I think his speech can be divided into three parts—(1) dealing with brothels, (2) excesses of soldiers, and (3) indecent scenes in public places.

As far as outrages by soldiers are concerned and offences of the kind that Dr. Sanyal has mentioned with reference to telegrams from the people of Chittagong, I can only say this that the Government of Bengal and the highest military authorities of both the United States Army and the British Army have been taking every possible step to reduce and prevent the commission of these outrages and crimes.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: You are only trying?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No, I said "crimes".

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: This is a misstatement. Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri heard him to say "trying", but the Hon'ble Minister says that he said "crimes."

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: You ought to listen to me attentively not to commit the crime of mishearing.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: We have a better sense of crime than you have although you are the Chief Minister.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Now, Sir, to come to the point. I can assure the House that wherever we get hold of any of these culprits, they are handed over to the military authorities; and the High Command of the two Armies have made it more than once clear to their officers that they should be severely dealt with and that no mercy should be shown to them (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Without any effect.) Sir, I have known of cases where punishments have been given to those who had been arrested. (MR. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Can you mention one?) I know of a case where a certain person who had stabbed three persons was awarded 5 years' rigorous imprisonment (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Only?) for injuries not fatal.

Now, Sir, there is the question of brothels. As far as these brothels are concerned, the House is aware that there was a strong public opinion that action should be taken against them. As a matter of fact, an Act was passed a short time ago but it was found that in view of some defects it could not be made operative. The Women's Organisation, the Metropolitan of Calcutta and others made continuous representations to Government that the Act should be amended and that Government should take immedaite steps. Later on the military authorities also came forward and pressed the Government for closing of the brothels, as according to their experience in England and the United States the closing of brothels has reduced the spread of venereal diseases in Europe and in the Middle East.

Mr. Nur Ahmed brought a Bill for combating venereal diseases and introduced a Bill in the Upper House to that effect, and immediately I began to receive deputations from various organisations. I tried to expedite this Bill, and we took steps in this direction and closed a large number of brothels, particularly those visited by the military. As a matter of fact, I may state here that the Commissioner of Police was not very willing to take this action against brothels as he apprehended that at the present time when the police are heavily engaged in their work, their work will be very much increased, because while these brothels were localised at a particular street or streets, if action is taken they will disperse and spread out all over the city, and it would be difficult to control them. According to Dr. Sanyal, evidently something of that kind has happened, and a number of women have already left Calcutta and there are some who have taken up houses in residential quarters. Our policy is that as soon as we receive any complaint from the local people of any road or street where any such house is established we take immediate steps. But as the law stands at present, it takes a month or so to get rid of them from that place. We are trying to practically drive them from street to street, and we are taking steps to see that these brothels are closed altogether in Calcutta.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: They are now marrying some men and it would be very difficult to get rid of them.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Well, Sir, Dr. Sanyal knows that, but I don't.

Now, Sir, as regards indecencies in public places the military authorities are also taking action. Whenever any particular locality becomes

a place where a large number of such incidents take place, they generally organise Military Police patrol, and certain Parks and other places have been kept out of bounds. I discussed this question with the Commissioner of Police and I will take it up with the Military authorities and try to increase Military Police patrol as far as possible and make other places of this kind also out of bounds. We have also suggested that as far as the Bengal Police and the Calcutta Police are concerned, if anything is brought to their notice they will immediately inform the Military authorities. It is quite possible that in some cases the police have said, "what can be done; we have definitely tried to stop them". However, in future if any incident of this kind is brought to their notice they must immediately try to get the help of the Military Police, and I may suggest that the non-official public, if they come across any such indecencies, should try to get into touch with the Military Police on the phone. If the Exchange is asked for Military Police, they will immediately give the number.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Now, Sir, I come to the question of the presence in the Legislative Assembly, of members who are detained on security grounds. I am willing to deal with this question—the general question of the detention of security prisoners at the other place, most likely tomorrow. At this place I only take up the limited point of view which has been raised as regards permitting them to come and sit in the chamber. In this connection I would like to point out that if we take the precedents of any other legislature it will be found that those persons who are detained in this manner have never been permitted to attend the sitting of the legislature. In the Central Assembly this question was raised and they were not permitted. In the House of Commons the well-known case was where Capt. Ramsay was not allowed to attend the meetings of the Parliament. The same practice prevails here. If Government are of opinion that it is not possible to give them their liberty, it is also not possible to allow them to come to the Assembly and to attend these meetings. It is impossible to so organise that they should be sitting in a secluded corner without coming into contact with anybody, for as soon as they enter the House they enter with all their rights and privileges which no rules of Government can limit.

Now, Sir, I come to the question of ban on the Congress organisations. Sir, as the House is well aware the ban was imposed when we were not in office. This was put, as far as Provincial Congress Organisations and A.I.C.C. are concerned, on an all-India basis and as this province is co-operating with the Centre, it has got to follow any policy which is on an all-India basis. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Only in this respect?) In all respects where the policy is definitely on an all-India basis we follow that. (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: What about the Frontier Province?) You should have asked that when your members were in power because at that time there was no ban. (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: They are releasing now.) I am not talking of releases. I am talking of ban on the Provincial Congress organisations and if you read Mr. Gandhi's statement it looks as if even at that time no ban was put on the Provincial Congress organisation of North-Western-Frontier Province. You read Mr. Gandhi's statement and you will find it is something to that effect. Therefore, as far as the Provincial Congress Organisation is concerned, the ban is on an all-India basis.

I found on enquiry that in 1942 five District Congress organisations were under ban. Out of these five I am pressing to withdraw the ban immediately on four. As regards Midnapore, I would like to take a little more time before I consider the question of withdrawing the ban. I can

assure the members of this House that as far as this question of release of political prisoners is concerned, we have taken action and detained them merely in the interests of the security of this province. (MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Security for yourself.) No, Sir, Honourable members should remember that as soon as we assumed office before we obtained a majority of 50, which we have by the grace of God got now, we allowed Congress members of this Assembly, who were detained, to come and sit in this House and vote against us. I even went to the extent of releasing those who were supposed to belong to Mr. Subhas Bose's party and two of the Bose's party have been released by me.

Sir, I would like to take this matter very seriously. What is the justification for detaining these persons? The justification is that it is apprehended that in case the war situation on the frontiers of India becomes bad there is likelihood of trouble in the province itself at a time when the military authorities will be making every effort to send army and supplies to the front and this may be disorganised by means of sabotage. Sir, it cannot be denied that at least one Bengalee is there with the Japanese who is daily broadcasting to the effect—Keep yourself ready: When I come you will have to do this, that and the other. Honourable members of this House, whether on this side or on that, have heard Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose broadcasting and giving instructions. We know that some of these people held Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose in affection and respect before he went to that place. Are we justified in taking risks as long as there is any apprehension?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What about the Ministers who were his comrades? What about yourself? You had been to his place on bended knees on several occasions and you will be the first man to surrender to him.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I maintain that when I feel that the danger is so removed that we can start the policy of release—when I am myself satisfied—I will advise His Excellency and if my advice is not accepted I will come and inform this House that as far as those prisoners are concerned their detention is not on my responsibility but on that of the Governor or somebody else.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: You will never have the courage to do so. Since you never did that in the past you will never do that in the present. You are constitutionally incapable of doing that.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: If the political organisation to which I belong, namely, the Muslim League Parliamentary Board, and the members of the Coalition Party advise that on this issue I should resign I will resign. (Cheers from Government benches and cries of "Oh, Oh" from the Opposition Benches.) The members of the Coalition party are just as much anxious to win independence and we shall win independence, but I can assure you that the members on this side of the House are not prepared to see the Japanese or any other power come and take India. (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: No one wants it.)

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Those who lick the feet of Britishers will be the first to lick the feet of others. Those who can lick one foot can also lick another foot. Those who can resist one can resist others.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Honourable members must know that so far as my political career is concerned——

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Yours is no career.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Your career is a boot-licker's career. You are the show-boy of these people (pointing to the European benches).

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Have you any career except job hunting?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have never changed sides for office. I can tell you this. When I was in Dum Dum jail recently I gave them hope that very soon the policy of release Ins-Allah will be started in Bengal. (Applause from Coalition benches.)

(The House was at this stage adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Government's failure to facilitate attendance in the Assembly of those members who have been kept in detention without trial, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—55.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Wahed Bokainagari, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das, Rai Sahib Monmohan.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherjee, Mr. B.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath.
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.

NOES—63.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Halim Molla, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rasohid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rashed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrah).
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abdul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Kazi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. L. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Farhut Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Khan Bahadur (Mymensingh).

Ferguson, Mr. F. F. M.
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi.
Gomes, Mr. R. A.
Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Leisk, Mr. John.
McIntosh, Mr. George, C.B.E.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Methold, Mr. J. H.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Taraknath, M.B.E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Norton, Mr. H. R., M.B.E.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Thorman, Mr. C. M.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C.B.E.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.
Zillur Rahman Shah Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 55 and the Noes, 93, the motion was lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the withdrawal of the Government's ban on the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee and a large number of District and Subdivisional Congress Committees, was then put and lost.

The motion of Sj. Narendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about promulgation of section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, to ban the last Durga Puja ceremony at Sandwip in the district of Noakhali and immersion ceremonies at Metiabruz was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Upendra Nath Edbar that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the mal-administration of the executive officers, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about lowering the prestige of public morality by the influx of foreign soldiers in the city and in the mufassal area, was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Ashutosh Lahiry that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to recruit a sufficient number of Provincial Civil Service Officers from within the province and about the policy to import Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Deputy Magistrates from outside the province, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the misuse of public fund by creating Propaganda Department, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abdul Wahed Bokainagari that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to give effect to the report of the Chaukidar Enquiry Committee, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the propriety of a circular issued by the Government to the effect that all nominations to local bodies should be made in consultation with the Government Chief Whip, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (i) the matter of appointments of the Scheduled Castes in services under the Government in spite of the Communal Ratio Rules; and (ii) the personnel of the Public Service Commission in Bengal, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mrs. Nellie Sen Gupta that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about mal-administration resulting in suffering to the people, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in appointing Army officers for civil duty in the province, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin that a sum of Rs. 1,80,28,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—General Administration" was then put and agreed to.

29—Police.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 3,21,96,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police".

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,21,96,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about incompetency of the department to stop black-marketing in Bengal.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 3,21,96,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Calcutta Police to put a stop to the accidents by military lorries.

I beg further to move that the demand of Rs. 3,21,96,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the incompetency of the police in stopping stabbing, rape, etc., by foreigners and military in Bengal.

প্রতি দেশের বাজেটের বিশেষভাবে দুইটি দিক থাকে—একটি অর্থনৈতিক, অপরটি রাজনৈতিক। বর্তমান বাজেটের অর্থনৈতিক দৃশ্যপট অতি চমৎকার। ১৯৪৬ সালের মার্চ মাসে বাংলার সম্পদ হবে বিশেষভাবে Finance Minister-এর ভাষায় ১৯ কোটি টাকা। কিন্তু বাস্তব ক্ষেত্রে তা হবে অন্ততঃ ২৫ কোটি টাকা। স্বাধীন দেশে বাজেটের দিকে দেশবাসী চেয়ে থাকে। বাজেটের মধ্যে তারা পায় প্রাণের সন্ধান, প্রাণের স্পন্দন, দেশের প্রকৃত ছবি। কৃষি, শিল্প, শিক্ষা, প্রতি বিভাগ সোৎসুক নেত্রে চেয়ে থাকে বাজেটের দিকে। কিন্তু এদেশের বাজেট—বাজেট দেখলে দেশবাসীর হৃদয়ে জাগে আতঙ্ক, ভয় ও ভাবনা। সেই ভয় ভাবনা আরও রূঢ় মর্মান্তিক-ভাবে দেখা দেয় যখন পুলিশ ও জেলের বাজেট নগ্নমূর্তিতে তাদের ঘাড়ে চেপে বসে। এদেশের হতভাগ্য পুলিশের

সবচেয়ে বড় কাজ--অতীতের ইতিহাস থেকে বলি,--বিপিন পেশাস্ত, লোকমান্য বালগঙ্গাধর তিলক, দেশবন্ধু দাশ, লালা লাজপৎ রায়, মহাত্মা গান্ধী, জহরলাল নেহেরু, শরৎচন্দ্র বসুর ন্যায় লোকদের বন্দী করা, তাঁদের ঘরবাড়ী অনুসন্ধান করা এবং তাঁদের কারাগৃহে প্রেরণ করা। এই সমস্ত কাজের জন্য পুলিসের সর্দার Home Minister যাইনা পান, কনেষ্টবলও যাইনা পান। কাজ উভয়েরই সমান। কেহ বা এই ধড়পাকড়ের নীতি অবলম্বন করেন কেহ বা ধড়পাকড়ের কাজ চালান। বাজেটের রাজনৈতিক দিকে দৃষ্টিপাত করলে প্রথমেই দেখি পুলিসকে। India Defence Rules এবং অন্যান্য প্রকারের আইন কানুন আজ পুলিসকে অসম্ভব রকমের ক্ষমতা দিয়েছে। এই ক্ষমতার বলে বর্ত্তমান Home Minister অহঙ্কারে মত্ত, বৃটিশ bayonetএর শক্তিতে তিনি আজ আত্ম-বিস্মৃত। বাংলার হাজার হাজার বন্দীদের বেদনাময় জীবনের কাহিনী নিয়ে যদি কেহ কখনও তার নিকট পেঁছায় তিনি তারপ্রতি করুণা ও বিদ্রূপের দৃষ্টি নিক্ষেপ করেন। আবার ব্যক্তিগত অভিজ্ঞতা হতেই বলি যশোরের কোন যুবকের উপর যে restriction order আছে তা তুলে নেবার জন্য আমি তাকে অনুরোধ করি। তিনি করুণা-নেত্রে আমাকে সে বিষয়ে পত্র লিখতে বলেন। আমি নিজের মান অভিমান উপেক্ষা করে নিজ হস্তে তাকে পত্রখানা দিয়ে আসি। বহুদিন পরে departmentএর Assistant Secretary উত্তর দিলেন—restriction order তুলে নেওয়া যাবে না। এই পত্রখানি যখন পেলাম তখন বুঝলাম স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন প্রথমে করুণা-নেত্রে চেয়েছিলেন, পরে বিদ্রূপ করলেন। আমি তাকে যে পত্রখানা দিয়েছিলাম ভদ্রতার খাতিরে তিনি নিজে সেই পত্রের উত্তর পর্য্যন্ত দিতে পারলেন না। Home Minister হ'লে ভদ্রতাজ্ঞানও বোধ করি রাখতে নাই।

রাজনৈতিক বন্দীদের নিয়ে যেন একটা তামাসা চলছে। কিন্তু একটি কথা বলে রাখি--This political prisoners will survive Sir Nazimuddin এবং এদের মধ্যে কেহ কেহ হয়ত একদিন Cabinet form করবে। এমন দিন হয়ত আসবে যখন Sir Nazimuddinকেও অনুগ্রহপ্রার্থী হয়ে এদের দ্বারে উপস্থিত হতে হবে। সুতরাং দাম্ভিকতার ও অভদ্রতার একটি সীমারেখা থাকা ভাল। পুলিস বিভাগের মন্ত্রীকে আমি যত দোষী মনে করি পুলিসকে আমি তত দোষী মনে করি না। মন্ত্রী প্রবর্ত্তন করেন নীতি, পুলিস তার অনুসরণ করে মাত্র। পুলিসের হাতে দেশবাসীর যে লাঞ্ছনা, সে লাঞ্ছনার পরিকল্পনা, উদ্যম ও উৎসাহ যোগাচ্ছেন পুলিসের মন্ত্রী Home Minister এবং সেই ইন্ধন যোগাবার জন্য আজ পেশ করেছেন ৩,২১,৯৬,০০০৲ টাকার একটি দাবী। এই দিকটা হ'ল বাজেটের রাজনৈতিক দৃশ্যপট।

পুলিসের কার্য্যাবলী সমালোচনা করলে দেখতে পাই যে তারা কোথাও অতিরিক্ত উৎসাহী, আবার কোথাও একেবারে নীরব। এই নীরবতার দু' একটি কাহিনী বলছি--৭ই জানুয়ারী তারিখে যশোর হতে এই চিঠি পেঁছায়--

Recently a number of foreigners raided the house of Rai Keshab Lal Roy Chowdhury Bahadur in the dead of night. Mr. C. Ganguly, Additional Sessions Judge of Jessore and Khulna, was living in that house with his family. On the day of occurrence Mr Ganguly was away from Jessore. The foreigners severely assaulted other male inmates of the house and one Hazari Modok, sleeping on the verandah, was brutally man-handled. He was subsequently removed to the hospital with severe injuries all over his body. About ten to twelve foreigners reached the first floor climbing up rain-water pipe. The neighbouring people trying to resist them were beaten and threatened with revolvers. A number of shots were fired. Realising the situation Mrs. Ganguly bravely faced the foreigners and told them who she was and asked them to leave the house. The foreigners were nonplussed, admitted their mistake, apologised and got away. The place of occurrence was two minutes' walk from the thana and the police was informed in time but strangely enough they did not take any serious step. They discharged their duty by simply sending a few unarmed constables who did not dare to approach the armed foreigners.

এই সংবাদ যখন "অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকার" অফিসে আসল তখন তারা এই সংবাদ একটি special messenger দিয়ে Press Officerএর কাছে পাঠিয়ে দিলেন। Press Officerএর এইটুকু সৎসাহস নাই--তিনি একটু পত্র লিখে দেন। তিনি খবর দিলেন যে তোমরা এই পত্র প্রকাশ করতে পারবে না। টেলিফোনযোগে বললেন—খবরদার এই সংবাদ publish করো না। ঘটনাচক্রে এবং সৌভাগ্যক্রমে যার বাড়ীতে এইভাবে মিলিটারী হামলা করেছিল তিনি হচ্ছেন একজন Additional District Judge of Jessore and Khulna. তিনি

সে ব্যাপার High Courtএর Chief Justiceকে refer করেন এবং হাইকোর্টের Chief Justice আবার সেটা military departmentএর কাছে refer করেন। আমি স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনকে জিজ্ঞাসা করি যে আমাদের বশোরের উপর এই যে অত্যাচার হ'ল তাঁর department থেকে তিনি কি করেছেন? তাঁর পুলিসের এ সম্বন্ধে কি কাজ হচ্ছে? যখন পুলিস জানতে পারল তখন কেন armed পুলিস পাঠিয়ে সেই বিপন্ন মহিলাকে রক্ষা করতে সক্ষম হয়নি? তিনি এর কি কৈফিয়ৎ দিতে পারেন? কিন্তু স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন খবরের কাগজে প্রকাশ করতে সম্মতি না দেওয়ায় তারা প্রকাশ করতে পারছে না। আজ Assemblyতে এই report প্রকাশিত হওয়ায় জনসাধারণ জানতে পারল যে বশোরে এই রকম একটা ঘটনা ঘটেছিল। কোন ঘটনা প্রকাশ হতে পারবে না—এই জুলুম তিনি আর কতদিন চালাবেন তাই আমি জানতে চাই। বিভিন্ন জেলায় বিভিন্ন স্থানে ভিন্ন ভিন্ন জনগণের উপর বহুবিধ অত্যাচার চ'লে গিয়েছে। আর একটা incidentএর কথা বলি--গত 11th October, 1944 তারিখে

On the 11th October 1944, just after twilight, when I, my brother, Bimal Sil and our nephew, Mr. Baidya Nath Dhar, were coming home with the young children of our family after an evening walk along the Southern Avenue an old Bengali gentleman hurried to and requested us to rush to the rescue of a Bengali lady who had been surrounded by some military men, a few paces off on the turf of the Southern Avenue (north of the Muhammadan burial ground in the Lake area). Leaving the children to the care of Baidya Nath we at once hastened to the spot and found a terror-stricken lady, surrounded by a number of black military men and a Bengali young man who was apparently her escort importunating them without avail to let her away. As we came nearer all of them dispersed excepting one who kept still holding the troubling lady by the hand. Realising that we would interfere he eventually let loose his grip on the lady's hand and turned his attention to us. The lady with her escort thus could manage to run away to some distance. After uttering some invectives peculiar to elements of his sort he succeeded in assaulting us but as the safety of the lady and our children standing nearby was our greatest concern we came away and later escorted the lady to a safe distance up to the north-eastern gate of the Lake on the Southern Avenue.

The above statement, Sir, was sent to Sir Nazimuddin by Mr. Mrinal Kanti Basu but he had not even the courtesy to give a reply to that letter.

আজ এই সভায় স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন দাঁড়িয়ে বললেন--যখন কোন অত্যাচারের কাহিনী তাঁর কাছে পেঁছায় তিনি এবং তাঁর department তৎক্ষণাৎ তার প্রতিকার করেন এবং তা অনুসন্ধান করে সে সমস্ত অপরাধী লোকদের শাস্তি দেবার জন্য চেষ্টা করেন। কিন্তু বহুদিন পূর্বে স্যার নাজিমের কাছে "অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকার" সম্পাদক মৃণালকান্তি বসু পত্র লিখেছেন, তাঁর ভদ্রতা পর্যন্ত নেই যে তিনি সেই পত্রের উত্তর দেন। এই যদি অবস্থা হয়--তাহলে ministerদের assuranceএর মূল্য কি? এই রকম বহুবিধ অত্যাচার বাংলার বিভিন্ন স্থানে প্রতিনিয়ত ঘটে যাচ্ছে। পুলিস এ বিষয়ে উদাসীন। এই পুলিসকে আজ যদি কোন রাজনৈতিক বিষয় সংক্রান্ত ব্যাপারে কোন যুবককে ধরবার দরকার হয় তাহ'লে পাহাড়-পর্বত-নদী গহ্বর তন্ন তন্ন করে খুঁজে নিয়ে আসতে পারে। সেই সময় তার লোকবল কোন কিছুর অভাব হয় না, কোন secret fundএর অভাব হয় না। কিন্তু বাংলার নরনারী যখন নানাভাবে নির্যাতিত, তখন বাংলা সে বিষয়ে নীরব। সুতরাং এই নীরবতা সত্ত্বেও অফিস যদি বলে—আমরা যখন প্রয়োজন বোধ করি তখন তার প্রতিকার করি এবং প্রতিকার করতে সব সময় প্রস্তুত আছি--সে কথার কি কোন মূল্য আছে?

Sir, এই হল কতকগুলি জরুরী কথা। আজ বর্তমান বৎসর জরুরী অবস্থার মধ্য দিয়া সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। তাছাড়া পুলিস বাজেট যখন আমরা দেখি ও আলোচনা করি, তখন অনেক কথা আমাদের মনে আসে এবং অনেক জিনিষ আমাদের চোখে পড়ে। কলিকাতার সংক্রান্ত ব্যাপারে দেখি এক একজন সার্জেণ্ট যে মাইনা পায় একজন শিক্ষিত ভদ্রলোক কলিকাতার পুলিসের Sub-Inspectorকে সে মাইনা দেওয়া হয় না। এই যে preferential treatment করা হচ্ছে এর মানেটা কি? কলিকাতা পুলিসের dearness allowance জন্য ১২ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়ে গেছে। পুলিসের মাইনাই অতিরিক্ত তার সঙ্গে আবার dearness allowance. Bengal Police ও Calcutta Policeকে যদি পাশাপাশি দাঁড় করিয়ে দেওয়া যায় তাহলে দেখা যায় Bengal

পুলিসের চাইতে Calcutta পুলিস কত বেশী টাকা যাইনা পায়। সুতরাং এর জন্য কোন justification খুঁজে পাই না। Bribery ও corruptionএর কথা বলতে বলতে আমাদের গলা ব্যথা হয়ে গেল। কলিকাতার traffic police সন্ধ্যা বেলা ফিরবার পথে মোটর গাড়ী দেখলেই এক টাকা-দু' টাকা আদায় করে ছাড়বে। ঘুষের কথা নিয়ে অনেক কথা বলেছিলাম কিন্তু স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন কোনদিন সে কথার কর্ণপাত করেন নি। গরীব রিক্সাওয়ালা, ট্যাক্সি গাড়ী ও ঘোড়ার গাড়ীওয়ালাকে পুলিস অত্যাচার করে পকেট ভর্তি করছে। এদের যদি অত্যাচার করতে হয় তাহলে পুলিসকে রাখবার জন্য কি দরকার, এই কয়েকটি কথা বলে শেষ করছি।

Cut Motion No. 155 under 25—General Administration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry to say that I have made a slight mistake which I now want to rectify if the House so permits. Through oversight or through hurry I forgot to put item No. 155, the cut motion of Mr. Radhanath Das, which I put now to the vote of the House.

The motion of Babu Radhanath Das that the demand of Rs. 1,80,28,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to appoint scheduled caste candidates in Government posts according to the ratio rules as formulated by the Government and also in the matter of distribution of standard cloth shops, distribution of Government contracts, etc., was then put and lost.

29—Police.

Mr. P. BANERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,21,96,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to detect crimes due to increased bribery and corruption.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 3,21,96,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to tackle the problem of profiteering and black-marketing, resulting in great hardship to the honest traders and general public.

Sir, at this fag end of the day when we have very little time at our disposal it is very difficult for us to do justice to a subject which at one time was allotted one and a half days' time for discussion but which has now been given even less than half a day although the demand has increased very much since then. It is said in English that something is better than nothing; so also we may say that it is better to have less time than nothing. We all know that Sir Nazimuddin is born lucky. While formerly Police was a reserved subject we had ample time to discuss its budget and also the administration of law and order in this province. But now we have less time and less opportunity to do so and Sir Nazimuddin justifies this on the score that now under a popular Government responsible to the people there is nothing to complain against this department which has been going on happily and merrily. Sir, that is his happiness. On the contrary, it has been admitted by all members and Sir Nazimuddin also in course of his reply to the earlier debate admitted that bribery exists in the department and whenever it is brought to his notice, steps are taken. Not only the police officers but even the Government executive officers are being hauled up. But, Sir, he forgets that when the case of Mr. Menon, Subdivisional Officer of Diamond Harbour, was brought to his notice, he did not take any notice of it whatsoever. Subsequently, however, when Mr. Menon was suspended, Sir Nazimuddin said "Yes, I have noticed that". There are a thousand and one such instances. One is brought to book and another escapes. To satisfy his own party, Sir, Nazimuddin has to do many things. If that is the state of affairs, then the only logical conclusion is that today when Sir Nazimuddin has taken the portfolio of law and

order, the police administration is running amuck. Everyone finds that law and order no longer exists in the country but it is lawlessness and disorder—not by the members of the public but by the members of the police—that exist. There are many such instances but I will give only two or three.

Sir, one such instance is reported in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" of the 15th of this month. There is a reference to my friend Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal also and this case shows how the police are working in broad day light in the streets of Calcutta. They were breaking law and order—some in uniform and others not in uniform going and breaking the queue and making *lathi* charges, turning out by force those people entering shops, taking away the cloths and depriving the members of the public of their legitimate share. It is reported that some were standing there from the early hours of the night and still they were deprived of their cloths by Sir Nazimuddin's men—members of the police service, constables and head constables.

Sir, I may give another instance which happened just before my eyes. At about 11-20 a.m. on the 12th March some women from Howrah and some from Midnapore were passing near the Currency Office in Dalhousie Square and I was also passing that way. Now, some went away and others were held up by constable No. 510. Immediately some of his friends came and said to the women "Give him something and go away". They said "We have got nothing with us. We have got only some seers of rice". I was watching this thing standing. Soon a sergeant came—his No. was 261—and as soon as he came, the constable started belabouring these women. Some members of the public protested with the result that one of them was caught hold of. Sir Nazimuddin is used to saying that whenever any member of the public will bring anything or produce anything against the police, he will take necessary steps, but the misfortune is that whoever dares to do that will be belaboured and taken to the thana. During Sir Nazimuddin's time constables have been very indulgent today and under his regime the police administration has been worse in Bengal and the crimes have increased. Sir, I will ask you to refer to the police administration reports. It will be found there that from 1935 there was a decrease in the number of crimes because one good officer Mr. Gordon was placed there for the time being. At that time he made a statement in which he said that the police are nothing but the servants of the people. He made such a statement and after that, if Sir Nazimuddin will care to remember, the morale of the police improved. He gave definite instructions and the result was that the crimes decreased. Reports have not been publishd for two years, so we do not know what is the present figure, but it has trebled and the figure is about 9,000 whereas the 1941 figure was about 3,000. This increase is due to lack of police administration in this country. Sir Nazimuddin will at once remark "What can be done. This is war time and crimes must increase". From 1937 to 1939 there was an increase in the number of crimes.

Now, Sir, What is the remedy. The remedy, I suggest is that two things must be done. During Mr. Gordon's time 60 men were dismissed including some Sergeants and as a result the morale of the police improved. It is necessary to take steps so that dishonest officers must at once be removed and increment should be given to those who really do the work, I mean, the Assistant Sub-Inspectors. These Assistant Sub-Inspectors only get Rs. 30—Rs. 50 and do not get even house allowance or anything else. Many of them are also graduates and they should be given good salaries. They are the real persons who go out first—not the Inspectors or the Sub-Inspectors. But what is the fact. When they go outside they are given bribe and their mouth is shut and the case is finished.

Sir Nazimuddin was also talking of another department—the Enforcement Department. I will tell Sir Nazimuddin that the Enforcement

Department has been another source of mischief to the country. Most of the officers have come from the retired list and they are working with vengeance. They are old doves. Many cases are not detected and if they are detected some bribe is given and these are finished. There is another matter which must not be lost sight of. These people approach the Magistrate and the Magistrate signs the notes and with them another Magistrate is sent. We have got information that in some cases these notes are planted into the pocket of some people and they are hauled up before the court. This is a state of affairs which every honourable member knows.

Sir, as regards black-marketing and profiteering I would restrict my remarks to two points only. One is cloth in charge of which there is a Minister now. As soon as an order is passed cloth at once disappears from the country. It is in Calcutta but it is taken out of Calcutta at night with the help of the police. With the help of the police this cloth is taken away by lorries. Sir, you will be surprised to hear that a lorry at night charges Rs. 400 from Calcutta to Burdwan, a distance of only 75 miles, because it is a case of smuggling. In this way cloths are being sold at a very high rate. Now, where are they stored? I will mention the place. They are stored in jute godown. They are stored in Government ration shops amongst paddy and other commodities. They are protected by the Police and in Government custody. That is the exact position. If Sir Nazimuddin cares for good administration, I will request him to hold an enquiry in the matter at once in such a way that these things can be stopped immediately.

With these few words I resume my seat.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED BOKAINAGARI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,21,96,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to pay dearness allowance to chowkidars out of the Police budget.

মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, আমি এই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করছি। আমাদের কৃষক-প্রজা পার্টি দাবী বরাবর করে এসেছে যে চৌকীদার-দফাদারের মাইনেটা সরকার থেকে দেওয়া হোউক্। কিন্তু সে দেওয়া হয় না। আমার প্রস্তাব হচ্চে যে চৌকীদার-দফাদারদের যে dearness allowance দেওয়া হচ্চে সেজন্য দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের প্রত্যেকের ৫০০৲ থেকে হাজার টাকা পর্যন্ত tax বাড়াইয়া লইয়াছে এবং সেই tax না বাড়াইলে Circle Officer এবং S.D.O. প্রভৃতি Officer budget মঞ্জুর করেন না।

আমি এই সঙ্গে গ্রামের জনসাধারণের যে কি দুরবস্থা তার একটা দৃষ্টান্ত বলতে চাই। আজকে "আজাদ"-এ একটা খবর বেরিয়েছে যার দ্বারা আমার ময়মনসিং এবং নেত্রকোণা সাবডিভিসনের খবরটা প্রকাশ হয়েছে। "আজাদে" এই বলা হয়েছে যে নেত্রকোণা townএর বেশ্যালয় থেকে ১৩টি নাবালিকা মেয়ে উদ্ধার করা হয়েছে। দরিদ্র মুসলমানেরা—তাদের মা-বাপেরা—এই মেয়েদিগকে দেড় টাকা, ২ টাকায় বেশ্যালয়ে বিক্রী করতে বাধ্য হয়েছে। এমন দুরবস্থায় পড়েছে মানুষ। সেই সব লোকের উপর এই সব tax ক্রমান্বয়ে বেড়ে চলেছে; সঙ্গে সঙ্গে dearness allowanceএর নাম দিয়ে আরো ক্রমান্বয়ে বাড়াইয়া লওয়া হইতেছে। আমি Governmenএর কাছে এই দাবী করিতেছি যে অন্ততঃ dearness allowanceএর টাকাটা সরকারী তহবীল থেকে, বাংলা সরকারে police budget থেকে চৌকীদার-দফাদারদের দেওয়ার জন্য। এই আমি অনুরোধ করছি এবং এই সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এই যে নেত্রকোণা খবরটা সেদিকেও প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, are you moving item No. 15?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, Sir, I will. Sir, I beg—— (CRIES FROM THE MINISTERIALIST BENCHES: At least for once agree to our request. Don't move your motion, Dr. Sanyal.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right. I bow to the wish of the majority, because it is rather late. (Applause.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, all I have to say is this. As far as Police is concerned it is the one service in which regularly every year proceedings have been drawn up and action taken against a large number of persons, and in some cases even quite a number of persons are dismissed. It is the policy of the Department to take severe action against these persons whenever Government can catch them. I can cite for example the complaint of Dr. Sanyal over the Howrah Railway station incident. As soon as we came to know about what had happened, we have taken up the matter at once and having thoroughly enquired into the matter taken necessary action. So I can assure the members of this House that we are always trying and the Head of the Department and the officers are always trying their level best to eradicate corruption and abuse of power. I do not claim that there is not such a thing. There is, but whenever possible steps are taken. In certain cases, I admit, that when complaints are made, they are not properly investigated if we do not get correct reports, but in a large number of cases men have been dismissed belonging to all ranks—Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and constables. Any number of appeals and memorials are coming to us from dismissed constables, head constables and others. So I can assure the House that we are always on the look out to take action against any policeman who violates the rules or try to do things which he should not do.

The motions of Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose that the demand of Rs. 3,21,96,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100——

(1) to raise a discussion about incompetency of the Department to stop black-marketing in Bengal;

(2) to raise a discussion about the failure of the Calcutta Police to put a stop to the accidents by military lorries; and

(3) to raise a discussion about the incompetency of the police in stopping stabbing, rape, etc., by foreigners and military in Bengal,

were then put and lost.

The motions of Mr. P. Banerji that the demand of Rs. 3,21,96,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100—

(1) to raise a discussion about failure of Government to detect crimes due to increased bribery and corruption; and

(2) to raise a discussion about Government failure to tackle the problem of profiteering and black-marketing—resulting in great hardship to the honest traders and general public,

were then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abdul Wahed Bokainagari that the demand of Rs. 3,21,96,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to pay dearness allowance to chowkidars out of the Police budget, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin that a sum of Rs. 3,21,96,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police", was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment

The House was then adjourned at 8-8 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Thursday, the 22nd March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 22nd March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 192 members.

Disturbance at the annual session of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema, Bangala.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you proceed with the work of today, may I invite your attention to a very serious matter of public importance and of urgent privilege of the House and outside? We have just come to learn that the annual session of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema, Bangala——

Mr. SPEAKER: Will it not be better if you make the statement after the questions are over?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, this is a matter of great importance concerning the civil liberties of the people, and Sir Nazimuddin may reply after the questions are over. The president of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema is Maulana Hossain Ahmad Madani. The meeting is being held at the Calcutta University Institute which is being disturbed by a systematic goondaism on the part of some sections of Muslims who, it is presumed, are inspried by the powers that be. The meeting was arranged with the permission of the Police. Certain Police constables are there and still they are not preventing this goondaism which is perpetrated by a certain section of Muslims who call themselves members of the Muslim League. (Cries of "No, no" from the Government Benches.) If this goes on and if the civil liberties of the people are trampled upon in this Province there is no use having meetings of this character in the Legislature. If we cannot protect the people we have no business to exist in this House and we cannot go on conducting a debate here in this sham manner. Therefore, I submit that this matter be immediately taken up and this goondaism stopped.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think Sir Nazimudidn would like to say something after the questions are over.

Further supplementaries to starred question No. 219 of 21st March, 1945.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to furnish the dates when these 59 bales of yarn referred to were actually received in the district of Bankura, the parties who were appointed handling agents for this yarn and the dates when these were actually distributed to weavers?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: 41 bales were despatched on the 30th October 1944 and another batch of 18 bales despatched on the 26th January, 1945. All these bales were suet to the District Magistrate of Bankura.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the District Magistrate arranged to distribute the same to the weavers in Bankura?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I have not got that information before me.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that certain quantities of yarn had come back to Calcutta from Bankura purported to have been releases made out of this allotment?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I have not heard any such complaint.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the counts that were respectively despatched to the District Magistrate of Bankura?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: The counts sent were as follows:—

10½ counts—5 bales.
12½ counts—25 bales.
20 counts—7 bales.
25 counts—3 bales.
40 counts—1 bale.

There was another question which I did not answer, namely, who were the handling agents? The Director of Industries directly sent it to the District Magistrate.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the requirements for which 10½ counts and 12½ counts of yarn were sent?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I have not got detailed information to show for what purpose they were sent, but these were the bales made available to the District Magsitrate for distribution among weavers for their various needs.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that except for the very limited use particularly for nets of fishermen and the like such coarse yarn as 10½ counts and 12½ counts are not normally used by the weavers of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: It was only 5 bales of 10½ counts that were sent.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the long range point of view mentioned, will the Hon'ble Miniseter be pleased to state whether Government have actually drawn up any scheme for the establishment of a spinning mill referred to therein?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Yes, Sir, it is under detailed examination.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is proposing to start a mill owned by the Government or owned partly by Government and partly by private businessmen or entirely by private businessmen with the Government patronage and support?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: As far as the 3rd category is concerned I rule it out of consideration and the other two are under my consideration.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has been considering the desirability of encouraging import of suitable machinery by existing cotton mills or by new cotton mills proposed to be established by private enterprise in order to ensure larger supplies of yarn to Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I shall be pleased to assist if any firm approaches me.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Government of India have at the present moment under consideration in connection with the allocation of import quotas the application of various provinces and parties in regard to the machinery of different categories obtainable from overseas?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Yes, Sir, and under that scheme if any parties apprpach the Department we are forwarding their applications with recommendations and at the same time we are expediting the preparation of our own schemes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what time may in his estimate be involved in setting up a new spinning mill in Bengal considering the present difficulties of transport and of obtaining machineries from abroad?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: It is not possible for me to estimate any time because it depends on the availability of machinery according to priority.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government is considering that such establishment of a spinning mill in Bengal would relieve the cloth situation in Bengal in the near future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: It depends on whether we will be able to set up such a spinning mill.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have under active consideration any other alternative scheme by which hand-spun yarn might be encouraged and produced immediately without having to wait for import of machinery from abroad and consequent loss of time?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am waiting for such advice from the Director of Industries.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the Director of Industries so far tendered any such advice?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Not yet. I am waiting.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Have the Government given any direction either to the Director of Industries or to any other competent authority to put before the Government a scheme for early establishment of a number of Spinning centres for hand-spinning arrangements to enable quicker supply of yarn in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I do not consider that any such instruction was necessary. The matter was so important and obvious that a responsible officer must take it into his consideration and submit his proposals to the Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in view of the acute shortage of yarn Government is considering the desirability of permitting the All-India Spinniners' Association, the Abhoy Asram and the Khadi Pratisthan to function normally, at least in regard to the propagation of khaddar?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: That is a political question as to how far these organisations have dissociated themselves from

the political movement, which I am not aware of. It is the Home Department which is concerned, and my honourable friend will have to address the Home Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in the Department of Industries, Government of Bengal, the records of the All-India Spinners' Association's production, their capacity to organise mass production of khaddar are already existent?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Yes, Sir, thier ostensible activities are known to the Industries Department; but what they were doing behind the scene is known to the Home Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have had any scheme to link up those actual workers in the rural areas a large number of whom were Muslims who were thrown out of employment as a result of bannnig of the organisation of All-India Spinners' Association and consequent stoppage of the production of hand-spun yarn of khaddar?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: All classes of weavers are being taken into consideration in the preparation of the scheme.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Apart from weavers, have Government any scheme to help the spinners of the rural areas who were being assisted by the All-India Spinners' Association and by the Khadi Pratisthan?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Government have not any definite scheme as yet.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: In view of the answer just given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the All-India Spinners' Association is illegal or spinning is illegal?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: That is a question to which I cannot give any answer.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: With reference to the answer just now given will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have got any scheme to introduce spinning as cottage industry at the time when Bengal is so short of yarn and cloth?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I think there are certain activities of the Department going on and I am expecting a very detailed scheme from the Director of Industries.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in case of failure of the Director of Industries in submitting any scheme, will the Hon'ble Minister himself take any initiative in formulating a scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am sure the Director of Industries will not fail.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether up till now any attempt has been made by the Director of Industries to submit any scheme when the cloth situation has been so grave for the last several months?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have already stated that I have not got any comprehensive scheme which I have been waiting for.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is aware that a useful and suitable second-hand spinning machinery is available not far away from the province?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not aware of.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of enquiring in the market whether any such machinery is available or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: At the time of setting up a spinning mill we will certainly consider whether any second-hand spinning mill suitable for our purpose is available or not.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have an estimate regarding setting up a second-hand spinning machinery in the province in view of the acute cloth famine that has overtaken the province now?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: As I have said, Sir, the whole scheme is under close examination, after which it will be considered whether a new machinery or a second-hand machinery, if available, will expedite the setting up of the machinery.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is desirable to supplement the Khadi centres with cotton in view of the dearness of yarn and cloth in the countryside, specially in areas which were badly hit by cyclone and flood?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Under the Rehabilitation Scheme of Government yarn and other necessary raw materials are being supplied to these artisans when we receive a report from the District Magistrate and the Subdivisional Magistrate.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: The question is, whether Government is prepared to supplement the Khadi centres with cotton, not with yarn.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I said, raw materials; and when I say raw materials, it includes cotton if necessary.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: And for the purchase of the spinning wheel?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: In many cases small advances are also being made to them to meet these incidental expenses.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether up till now Government have supplemented any of the Khadi centres with a single farthing worth of cotton?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: As I have already said, the administration of the scheme is the responsibility of the District Magistrate and Subdivisional Officer; and as we get requisition from them we try to supply them with raw materials. And as far as advances of money are concerned, the District Magistrate has got sufficient fund under the Rehabilitation Scheme to assist these artisans.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will Government consider the desirability of preparing statistics of existing charkhas in the province?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: It is not possible for me to carry all these figures in my head and give the answer straightaway.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of taking statistics—not now?

Mr. SPEAKER: He does not want the statistics now. He wants to know whether Government will consider the desirability of collecting statistics.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I think the department has got sufficient information in this respect and I will certainly consider this suggestion whether it will be helpful to take a census of the charkhas all over the province.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in any written record of the Government charkha has up till now found a place in the rehabilitation scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I do not know what my friend means by "in any written record", but I may inform him that we have supplied charkhas in many places to the people under the rehabilitation scheme.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to keep these charkhas going, viz., by procurement of cotton?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Supply of yarn or cotton is a Civil Supply matter. We do not deal with them, but if in any particular case any request comes for the supply of the raw material, the Director of Industries does contact the relevant authority and try to procure that raw material.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the places in which charkhas have been distributed and what is the approximate number of such charkhas distributed?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: For these detailed information I ask for notice.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Muslim officers in Jail Departments.

68. Maulvi M. MOSLEM ALI MOLLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of Muslim Jailors in the Province;

(*ii*) percentage of Muslim officers in Jail Department;

(*iii*) what step Government have taken to make up deficiency, if any, of Muslim officers in this department; and

(*iv*) if no steps have been taken, the reason therefor.

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there was any proposal before Government to make up this sort of deficiencies and to bring up proper representation of all communities in public service?

(*c*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the Government is going to grant extension and re-appoint retired officers of Jail Department; and

(*ii*) that by the aforesaid extensions and re-appointment claims of promotion of efficient Muslim officers are going to be frustrated?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) Eleven.

(*ii*) 40·90.

(*iii*) Communal Ratio Rules are strictly observed in making appointments in the Jail Department.

(*iv*) The honourable member is referred to my reply to (*iii*) above.

(*b*) Yes. The Communal Ratio Rules have since been framed for the purpose.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes. Extension of service for two months has been granted in cases of two officers in the public interest.

(*ii*) The period of extension is too short to affect materially the promotion of Muslim Deputy Jailors.

Regarding Rowlands Committee.

69. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names, qualifications and remuneration of each of the members of the Rowlands Committee entrusted with the examination of the present and future administrative machinery of the Bengal Government;

(*b*) the date when the Committee was appointed and the maximum period that is estimated to be required by the Committee to finish its labours;

(*c*) the progress made by the Committee in its task up to the latest available date;

(*d*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a set of questionnaire issued by the Committee to a number of local bodies for their opinion on various matters of administration and executive machinery; and

(*e*) whether Government will be pleased to lay on the Table a copy of such questionnaire, if available?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*b*) The Committee sat from the 1st November and it is hoped that the work will be completed by the end of March, though the printing of the report may take till the 15th April.

(*c*) The Committee's progress may be judged from the fact that it has now reached the stage of Report.

(*d*) No questionnaire has been issued to local bodies, though the views of certain associations and Chambers of Commerce have been invited in general terms.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 69, showing the names and pay and allowances, etc., of the members of the Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee.

CHAIRMAN.

Sir Archibald Rowlands, K.C.B., M.B.E., Adviser to His Excellency the Viceroy on War Administration—£3,000 per annum *plus* a non-pensionable and non-taxable allowance of £1,200 per annum *plus* a rent allowance of £450 per annum.

MEMBERS.

Sir H. M. Hood, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Madras—Rs.4,000 per mensem.

Mr. R. L. Walker, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Finance Department—Rs.3,000 per mensem.

Khan Bahadur M. A. Momin, C.I.E., M.L.C., Retired Commissioner of a Division, Bengal—Rs.2,000 per mensem *plus* the pension he is drawing.

Rai Debendra Mohan Bhattacharyya Bahadur, Chairman, District Board, Midnapore—Rs.2,000 per mensem.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER.

Mr. N. Baliol Scott—Rs.3,000 per mensem *plus* an allowance of Rs.1,250 per mensem.

SECRETARY.

Mr. J. L. Llewellyn, I.C.S., District Magistrate, 24-Parganas—Grade pay in the senior I.C.S. scale, viz., Rs.1,700 per mensem *plus* overseas pay at £30 per mensem.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state what were the terms of reference of this committee—Rowlands Committee?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The terms of reference were published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to refer to the publication mentioned and find out if the terms are given there or not and, if so, will he kindly read those out to the members?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 14th December, 1944, at page 1464: The Governor is pleased to constitute a Committee to be designated as the Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee on the terms of reference as set out below:—

(1) To assess the work to be done by the Government of Bengal both now and in the foreseeable future in order to ensure the efficient Government of the Province of Bengal on modern and progressive lines.

(2) To report to what extent the existing administrative machine is adequate in structure, extent and quality, and to recommend methods of improving it at all levels to render it adequate, for the efficient discharge of that work.

(3) In particular to examine—

(*a*) the suitability of the present territorial jurisdictions (e.g., divisions, districts, subdivisions, thanas and circles);

(*b*) the extent to which, and the directions in which local self-governing institutions may be utilised as an efficient adjunct to the adminsitration with special reference to public health;

(*c*) the desirability of employing technical personnel and its co-ordination with the existing structure of district administration;

(*d*) sources and systems of recruitment to, and conditions of employment of, the public service with a view to—

(*i*) securing the best men with due regard to the declared policy of Government in respect of Communal reservations, and

(*ii*) precluding discontent, irresponsibility and temptation to corruption.

(4) Generally to make recommendations for the improvement of the administration.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if he is aware that on the eve of the previous reforms, similar committees were appointed with a view to enquire and find out how far the existing officers of Government could be fitted in into a new scheme of reforms?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, committees were formed previously but not of the kind contemplated by the present Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state at whose instance this committee was appointed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: At the instance of the Government of Bengal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal had any instruction or any request from any outside authority in connection with this Enquiry Committee?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state how the Government of Bengal could procure the services of Sir Archibald Rowlands and who assisted them in obtaining his services?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, for securing a suitable Chairman the assistance of the Governor was very helpful.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if it is a fact that it was at the instance of the Governor of Bengal that this committee was appointed and the Chairman was requested to take up the duties before the Ministers of this Government knew anything about it?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is not correct.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state when was Sir Archibald Rowlands requested to take up his duties and when was the formation of this committee announced?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have said the formation of this committee was announced on the 14th December, 1944, and as regards the date of the appointment of Sir Archibald Rowlands I have to ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the committee was formally appointed towards the middle of December although they began to function from the 1st of November and this delay was due to the fact that the Ministers were not aggreeable to have the committee functioning in the manner it did?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is not correct. The announcement was certainly made on the 14th December and the committee was appointed with effect from the 1st November.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When was the Chairman appointed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have said I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why was there delay between the appointment of the committee and the functioning of the committee earlier and how was it that with retrospective effect the appointment was announced?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There was some delay in selecting the personnel of the non-official members of the committee.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state when the non-official members were selected and when were the other official members actually selected and informed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If I have to give dates I have to ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if he is aware that the Chairman began to function earlier than the date when the committee was constituted and before the non-official members knew anything about it?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The committee was appointed, as I said, with effect from the 1st November, 1944.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state when were the non-official members allowed to know of the committee's appointment?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Some of them were informed quite early.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the post that Sir Archibald Rowlands was designated to hold in the immediate future?

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you mean to say that while acting as Chairman he was appointed somewhere? Everybody knows that.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That had been announced in the papers and Dr. Sanyal knows that. He was due to be designated as Finance Member of the Government of India.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that in order to provide an interim appointment to this gentleman before the retirement of the present incumbent of the post of Finance Member, a suitable post had to be arranged for this gentleman with a high salary and the Government of India wanted the Bengal Government to swallow the same?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, that is not correct. When the appointment of the Chairman was made there was no question of his being appointed as the Finance Member of the Government of India.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how was the salary and allowance of Sir Archibald Rowlands decided upon and on what basis?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why was it that there was a difference made in the salaries of different members of the Committee?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: So far as the official members are concerned including the District Magistrate their official salaries as has been stated in the statement are being paid and so far as Mr. Baliol Scott is concerned, he had a business and he was in the Treasury there, and, therefore, he had to be given the requisite compensation for the loss that he sustained and his salary was higher than two other members.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the post that was held by Mr. Baliol Scott before he was appointed an Associate Member and what was his previous remuneration?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Baliol Scott was employed in the British Treasury previously and he also had a private business which he had to wind up before he came to Bengal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Am I to understand that while he was a Government servant, I mean Civil Servant in Britain in the British Treasury, he also had a private business run by himself?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is not necessarily.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is what you said.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I said he was employed by the British Treasury previously. I do not know whether he had the business simultaneously or not.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he resigned from the British Treasury and what was the nature of his private business?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the earning of this gentleman from his private business for which this compensatory salary and allowance coming up to Rs.4,250 per month had to be provided?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have not got the details with me now.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Government of Bengal and the Province of Bengal have been fortunate in securing the services of Sir Archibald Rowlands and other officers like Mr. Baliol Scott?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Report of this Committee will be available to the public?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I hope so. But I am not making any definite statement.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Rai Debendra Mohan Bhattacharyya Bahadur, Chairman, District Board, Midnapore was acting as Chairman of the District Board during the time—from 1st November, 1944, up till this day?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know. I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the competence of Rai Debendra Mohan Bhattacharyya Bahadur to examine and report on the administrative machinery of the Province?

Mr. SPEAKER: Say what are the special qualifications.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: What are the special qualifications of Rai Bahadur Debendra Mohan Bhattacharyya to examine and report on the administrative machinery of the Province?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That he may be an administrative expert is evident from the fact that he is the Chairman of a District Board.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many meetings were held of this Committee and out of those meetings what were the numbers respectively attended by each of these members?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid, I cannot supply details.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Khan Bahadur Abdul Momin could not attend more than 50 per cent. of the meetings?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is absolutely wrong.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the number of meetings Khan Bahadur Abdul Momin attended?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: As I have said I have not got the detailed information with me.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On what authority the honourable member is in a position to contradict the statement that he could not attend more than 50 per cent. of the meetings?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the salary Khan Bahadur Abdul Momin was drawing when he retired from service?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Rs.3,000 per month *plus* travelling allowance.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Khan Bahadur Momin draws any compensatory allowance as the other gentleman, Mr. Baliol Scott, when he attends the meetings?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. He is getting his pension in addition to the salary.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that several District Boards were asked to submit their written memoranda to this Committee as well as to appear before the Committee for oral evidence in connection with the enquiry?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The District Boards Association represented by three or four members were examined by the Committee.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the District Boards were given any questionnaire to prepare their memoranda in connection with this enquiry?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. No questionnaire was issued.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is mentioned here "No questionnaire has been issued to local bodies, though the views of certain associations and Chambers of Commerce have been invited in general terms". Will the Hon'ble Minister be pelased to state what were those general terms?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have not got the papers with me, but I represented the District Board Association and the general terms of examination were with regard to the District Board administration and how the District Board administration could help the Provincial Government and whether certain Departments of the District Boards could better be administered by the Provincial Government or by the local bodies. These were the general terms on which the District Board Association was asked to give their opinion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that among other things questions were asked or attempts were made to obtain information from the District Boards with a view to find out how far certain Departments of District Boards at present were not properly functioning in the interests of the public and could more efficiently be taken up by the Provincial Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. That is what I meant. These were the points that were discussed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that previously there was an attempt by the Lee Commission and also by a subsequent Committee to reserve certain posts in the Province for a particular service immediately before the Reforms were introduced?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is very difficult to say whether it arises out of the question. The present question has got no bearing on that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this Committee has had in the course of their enquiry any investigation into the question as to what extent the permanent officials might be kept out of bounds of the control of Ministers of the province?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in regard to question (*d*) that is, precluding discontent, irresponsibility and temptation to corruption amongst public servants, the Committee has been examining the question of keeping out a certain category of permanent officials from the effective control of Ministers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a matter of particular reference to the Committee and the Committee's report has not yet been received by Government. So, the Government are not aware of how and what kind of discussion took place in the Committee. Government are not aware of the recommendations which the Committee are likely to make. It is not possible to answer any question about the discussion that took place in the Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is confidential.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the associations whose views are invited?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Only local bodies and Chambers of Commerce. I do not know whether the views of any other Association or bodies are invited.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: What is the number of Associations that have been consulted?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: By local bodies it is meant District Boards, local boards, etc.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: What is the amount of pension that Khan Bahadur M. A. Momin is drawing now?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Khan Bahadur M. A. Momin is also permitted to continue his private business as contractor under the name and style of Messrs. Zahidi and Company?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know whether he has any private business or whether he is doing the work of a contractor.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that you can use your time better in other ways. Question time is over.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: May I with your permission refer to the adjournment motion for which I gave notice?

Mr. SPEAKER: You have got my order, have you not?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Yes, Sir, I have got it. I do not know how I can discuss the matter. I refer to the *lathi* charge by police constables and sergeants on the workers of the factory of Messrs. Burn and Company, Howrah.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can discuss it day after tomorrow when the demand under labour will come up for discussion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Can I refer then to the assault by police constables?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you can.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I have another suggestion to submit before you. I was submitting yesterday before the Deputy Speaker that after the visit of Mr. M. K. Basu to the Alipore Central Jail we came to know that Srijut Tarapada Gupta received a serious injury on his head which had to be stitched. The length of the injury was about 5 inches long. He is now in the hospital. So, I want to submit to you to communicate to the Home Minister this fact and request him to look into the report of Mr. M. K. Basu and find out whether the report he received from the jail authorities was correct or not.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir Nazimuddin, have you got anything to say?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I know whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister is prepared to say anything about the Jamiat-ul-Ulema Bangala meeting today and if he has any idea of assisting in the peaceful conduct of that meeting?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have repeatedly told you that I am always ready to answer any question if notice is given.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL. I spoke to Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He spoke to me two or three seconds before you entered the chamber.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I would like to state that I am not aware of anything about the meeting. It is a public meeting. The police are there to see if there is any breach of peace. The police cannot go to a public meeting and turn out people who are there. How can that be done? I am surprised that the honourable member is asking me to intervene like that.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

63—Extraordinary Charges in India.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.10,14,71,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary charges in India".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about (*i*) organisation of the Civil Supplies Department and its expansion; (*ii*) losses on the sale of food to the public and in the procurement operations generally; (*iii*) corruption in and maladministration of the Civil Supplies Department; and (*iv*) failure of Government to ensure equitable distribution of

cloth and yarn, and secondly to raise a discussion about (*i*) maladministration of the Department of the Provincial Textile Controller; (*ii*) corruption in the Department of the Provincial Textile Controller and failure to check black marketing in cloth and yarn; (*iii*) urgency of setting up a representative Textile Board at the Centre with people's committees at each distribution zone with a view to ensure equitable distribution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why don't you move your two motions together?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes Sir, I am doing that. I have moved the second one first and the first one second because logically the second one comes first.

This demand under Extraordinary Charges, Sir, incurred by this province as a direct result of the war specially on account of A.R.P., civil defence, including the home guards and civic guards organisations and the Department of Civil Supplies with all its various branches and sections have been causing some amount of flutter and apprehension during the last few years. The total amounts spent and provided for under this head during the last few years are indeed enormous being more than Rs.37,34 lakhs in 5 years from 1941-42 to 1945-46. The current year's figure exceeds Rs.18,39,00,000 and as a matter of fact more than ten crores of rupees has been provided for in the coming year's budget. In fact, it may be stated without any fear of contradiction that the present net indebtedness of the province of Bengal amounting to an estimate of about twenty crores of uncovered debt by the end of 1945-46 is largely, if not entirely, due to the expenditure under this head. It is therefore natural that the demands for grants on the other heads, General Administration and even Police, which evoke ordinarily strong criticisms and prolonged debates have resiled to the background, and I hope this House will examine this demand with that scrutiny and care which the volume and the implications of the expenditure demand. Complaints regarding maladministration and corruption in regard to various departments covered by this grant have been received and ventilated on the floor of this House and outside from time to time. Such complaints include the A.R.P. services, the Home Guard Organisation, the Civic Guard Organisation and various malpractices in that connection have been drawn attention to I trust other members will deal with some of these instances and if time permitted I would also have invited attention to some of them.

The Department of Civil Supplies, in particular, however and especially the Department of Textile Control under it has been in public gaze for some time and today I propose specially to deal with these two sections under the present demand. As has been indicated in my motions my principal objects today will be to lay bare before this House the maladministration of the Civil Supplies Department, the losses on the sale of food purchase policy, corruption and jobbery in the Civil Supplies Department, failure of Government to ensure equitable distribution, maladministration and corruption in the department of the Textile Controller, the failure to check blackmarketing and the urgency of setting up a committee of enquiry into the various allegations and the urgency of constituting a people's committee with a representative committee at the centre to invite public co-operation and to ensure public confidence in the measures proposed for equitable distribution.

While speaking of the maladministration of the Civil Supplies Department I would, first of all, like to deal with the method and manner in which this department has been constituted and is being expanded. Sir, we have heard that of late there has been an expansion and reorganisation of that department. This department from the very beginning had not been constituted in accordance with any plan but it was just added to from time to time as and when some new problem arose and that also long after the

problems took a serious turn. This absence of planning and timely action has led in most cases to haphazard selection of staff and persons have been selected who did not deserve to hold any of the posts. I had asked questions to the department nearly six months ago and the questions have not been replied to asking specifically the names of the persons appointed to hold certain categories of posts drawing salaries of Rs.400 and upwards showing respectively their qualifications and experience and what these gentlemen had been earning before they were chosen to join the Civil Supplies Department. For reasons best known to the Hon'ble Minister in charge such a statement has been denied to me but, Sir, a cursory look at the various offices of the Civil Supplies Department shows that there is an unholy attempt to please a section of the European community by inviting not only official Europeans of the Civil Service against whom I have not got so much grudge but also non-official Europeans of various descriptions some of whom having had no previous experience to deal with the matters which they are now entrusted with. Sir, in this respect the province has had a very sad experience indeed in the appointment of one Mr. Scott from the Imperial Bank constituting a distributing Trades Tribunal for which we spent a lot of money and with regard to which gentleman we mentioned that he had taken his wife as Secretary and confidential assistant as he could not trust anybody else, and public money was spent therefor. There was also the experience of Mr. Somerset Butler, of McInnes, of Elkins and the last but not the least, the present Provincial Textile Controller, Mr. Jones. I would not like to go into the merits and defects of each of these gentlemen but I am sure the Hon'ble Minister will admit frankly today that the association of these gentlemen in the department has not been helpful to the province, at least to the department over which the Hon'ble Minister presides, and much of the bungling in the department has been due to wrong and ill-considered policy, if not to some such practices that some of these officers of Government temporarily appointed from non-official sources were found to be prone to adopt. At the present moment from a report that was published in the "Bengal Weekly" some time back, it appears that Government has now obtained the services of one Mr. Aldridge and it is reported that he was a diamond merchant of the Middle East brought over here because of previous relationship, I hope, not business relationship, with the present Governor of Bengal and this gentleman has been brouhgt in as Additional Commissioner of the Civil Supplies Department with co-ordinated powers probably with the former Chief Secretary of the Government of Bengal, Mr. A. deC. Williams. There are other officers—particularly I would like to mention amongst them the name of one Mr. Pritt who has been appointed Director of Inspection, a man who was an employee of a certain association of colliery owners and was supposed to be buying rice on account of colliery labour. This gentleman who knows hardly anything about the quality and variety of Bengal rice has now been appointed Director of Inspection and is supposed to pass the quality of various rice purchases and other grains purchased. There is also the Director General of Consumer Goods in the person of Mr. Tully whose ability I do not much know of but I can say that at least he knows nothing about the various categories of consumer goods that he is asked to deal with, far less of the most important problem that he is now entrusted to handle—the textile trade. There is also Mr. P. J. Griffiths, who is now a non-official, having been entrusted with the onerous task of Director-General of Enforcement, who combines in himself four important duties and tasks in addition to his work as honorary Enforcement Director-General, and I presume that he has got the physique of 12 persons and the brain of half a dozen to be able to perform all the duties if he does not mean to humbug the Government and the people with so much trumpeting as he has been doing so far. And last but not the least is one military officer in the person of General Wakely who, though started very well in the beginning and about whose personal abilities I have not much grievance, has been absolutely reckless in the organisation of the movements and

storage section of the department of Civil Supplies, running that department as he did with a large number of inefficient, ill-equipped, dishonest officers—military and civil—over whom either he could not exercise sufficient control or he did not want to carry out effective control in the interest of somebody else.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I am sorry to interrupt you. I want to know the exact time you want to take because I will have to accommodate Rai Chaudhuri.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Our motions being on the same subject, let him have full time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The difficulty is that on Tuesday last I had to detain the House for a late hour and I had to sit for a longer period. Today I propose to adjourn the House at 7-30. I hope Dr. Sanyal, Mr. Roy and Mr. Fazlur Rahman will hold consultation among themselves and will adjust the time.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, there is no other demand today. This is the only demand.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The second important respect in which the maladministration of the Civil Supplies Department need enquiry and examination is with regard to the district organisation. While the reorganisation recently effected has led to too much top heavy administration at the centre, the district organisations continue to remain far from satisfactory. The main reason as I can visualise and study is due to the fact that both at the centre and in the districts the department of Civil Supplies has continued to remain completely out of touch with public opinion. Sir, the proof of efficiency and success of any administrative machinery must depend ultimately on the manner in which that department has been able to carry out the duties imposed on itself. Judged by this test we notice that the department of Civil Supplies has not only failed but miserably failed to maintain the supplies necessary for the people of Bengal, and, Sir, I submit that the last famine through which Bengal passed was more man-made than an act of God because of the bungling of the Ministry and the administrative inefficiency evidenced by the department of Civil Supplies.

The Hon'ble Minister as well as the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Finance were taking pardonable, or unpardonable pride I should say, in announcing that so far as the food situation was concerned we were out of the wood and they were claiming credit for the same. Whatever may have been the position in the past, I ask him on what materials could he claim that he has been maintaining the supplies of food to the people of Bengal at a price within reasonable reach of a large majority of our countrymen and what earthly justification can there be to continue to charge Calcutta at an enormous rate of Rs.16 and above per maund for rice while just outside the city of Calcutta and the rationed area rice may be had freely at Rs.11, Rs.12 and Rs.13 per maund! Even so what is the quality that we get sometimes distributed through the ration shops. I have got with me, Sir, a sample of rice which I make a present of to the Hon'ble Minister. In that respect a complaint has actually been lodged by a gentleman and although the complaint is with the department nothing appears to have been done so far. This relates to a supply on the basis of cash memo No. 6598 from shop No. A.R. 733 and a copy of this letter appears to have been addressed to the Technical Adviser, Ration Department, Government of Bengal, Town Hall, and also to various officers. (The Hon'ble MR. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: What date?) It is, dated 17th March, 1945, from Mr. P. C. Chatterji, of 21, Scott Lane, Calcutta. I am

prepared to admit, Sir, that with regard to the complaint about the quality of rice the complaint has of late been comparatively less than before, but even so there cannot be the slightest justification for continuance of such distribution of absolutely rotten and inedible rice with so much machinery of checking and inspection set up at high cost.

Apart from this inefficiency in the distribution of foodgrains at reasonable price while retaining or maintaining proper price for the agriculturist, complaints are coming from all quarters,—I have got a whole file of them,—pointing out how the Government's purchasing agents on the authority of Government have been oppressing both the local dealers as well as the agriculturists in the mofassal. I have got with me a letter dated 20th March, 1945, received by me only yesterday from the North Bengal Rice Mills Association of Dinajpur pointing out how armed with the authority of the Government Messrs. Ispahani & Company were forcing the rice mills there to deliver rice to them and paddy and everything at a price of Rs.9-8 only per maund of milled rice and paddy at Rs.5-8 only per maund and this also in respect of clean graded paddy and bagged rice. The Rice Mills Association pointed out that if they had to accept Rs.5-8 for the paddy they could not give more than Rs.5 to agriculturists for paddy which surely the Hon'ble Minister would admit would be uneconomic for the cultivators. And while this has been the rate offered by the Government agent, there has been numerous different grounds for deduction of the same bringing about an arbitrary discount of up to 12 annas per maund on certain occasions. Sir, from the districts reports are coming not merely in regard to food but also in regard to sugar, kerosene oil and, to some extent, salt, although difficulties for salt are not at the present moment so acute and very definitely in regard to mustard oil from all parts of Bengal, and I can claim that the Government have miserably failed to maintain civil supplies for the people of Bengal in all these respects.

If the maintenance of civil supplies has not been successful, the loss entailed on the Government of Bengal has been stupendous. There has been loss on foodgrains purchase alone of a total of Rs.22½ crores in course of two years, and we would like to have a full explanation for this loss. It does not appear explicable how while Government had been buying at a low price and selling at an enormously high price they are still continuing this loss to the province of Bengal. We knew that in regard to the wheat purchase policy the Government of Bengal made certain big profits. At no stage was Government required to buy at a higher price and sell at a low price except towards the latter part of 1944 during which alone there was a policy of reduction in the prices from time to time. Government's own analysis shows that, so far as loss on foodgrains purchase is concerned. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: 1943? The Braund Committee came afterwards.) I said towards the latter part of 1944 when I presume there was a dropping down tendency for prices. I believe there are other motions which will deal with foodgrains purchase policy and I will not detain the House longer on this except for demanding that there should be a fair, impartial, critical enquiry into these tremendous losses.

Sir, the maladministration of the civil supplies department has been reflected more in the fostering of patronage and corruption which has vitiated the entire atmosphere of this fair province of Bengal than in anything else. Hardly any department of Civil Supplies can be quoted wherefrom corruption, bribery and jobbery can be said to be absolutely absent. Even in regard to most respectable persons, various charges and comments are reported. I shall not have the time to deal with individual instances, but I would most gladly place all materials before any committee of enquiry in that respect.

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, I would require another 15 minutes, and then I think there will be prayer time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already had 25 minutes. I can give you half an hour. Yes, you go on.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the wastefulness of this department due to damaged food, has added to the losses and we do not know what that loss will amount to. The budget figures do not reveal correctly all the amounts that the Province has to bear on account of damages and deterioration in the quality of the food.

Then, Sir, there is one matter in connection with this wastefulness that I would like to invite your attention to and that is in regard to the construction of boats. Several crores of rupees are being provided and have already been spent on the construction of boats. 10,000 boats. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Does it not fall under Capital Outlay?) Yes, but the loss is under Extraordinary Charges. I might mention for the knowledge of the Hon'ble Minister that the loss that is actually incurred and carried over to the Revenue account comes to today's account and whatever remains outstanding goes to Capital account to be taken up tomorrow. Anyway, the Government had no scheme actually prepared to show what traffic had to be carried from the boats and what is the capacity of boats required as well as the number of boats necessary for the same. Suddenly, due to the recommendation of some person or persons who probably were interested in this game, large sums of money were provided and I can predict with some amount of expert knowledge in this matter that all this amount of money coming to about Rs.6 crores in two years would be completely wasted and Bengal's deficit budget to that extent will be swelled in no time.

Even apart from these boats proposed to be constructed or which have been constructed with most third rate materials with practically no supervision at all, any number of Inspectors have been appointed for the same. In addition to that, the Government of Bengal went to the length of buying about one crore of rupees worth, I understand, of "Dhows" from the Bombay side. These are supposed to be for Coastal Service and generally with capacity of about 270 to 300 tons; and these dhows purchased from the Bombay side through a firm named Sethia & Co. which cost Bengal nearly 1 crore of rupees are still lying on the western coast somewhere near Cochin and could not be brought. We would like to know who have been responsible for such wastefulness and how the Government of Bengal was going to deal with such officers. Our regret is that when non-official Europeans are appointed and they bungle and as a result thereof loss is entailed on the province nothing can be done. They have probably made some money out of Government and even other sources and they will merrily retire, disgraced or otherwise does not matter to them in the least. I cannot understand why Government do not entrust such responsible work to permanent officials of the Department—I.C.S. officers and Bengal Civil Service Officers—who at least have some reputation to lose if not their provident fund.

Coming now, Sir, to the most debated item, namely, the textile control, I submit that the failure of Government in this regard has been colossal. I have in a note published in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" a few days ago on the 14th of March last detailed the causes of the present cloth famine and have also suggested remedies for the same. I am glad to find that in a statement made by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department to the Press yesterday published in this morning's papers many of the causes analysed by me have been taken note of and elaborated. To that extent I have my sympathy for the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department. In regard to the analysis of distributive machinery I submit that although he has admitted and accepted the urgency of rationing both for urban and rural areas as suggested and claimed by me he has not given any indication as to how rationing is going to be made and in particular I demand that if he continues to rely on the haphazard

selection of a few limited number of shops not necessarily on the basis of and not necessarily with the object of rationalising the distribution but with a deliberate intention of snatching business away from the hands of certain persons to be distributed amongst party men and particularly amongst members of a particular community, then, Sir, no amount of machinery set up for equitable distribution could properly function. I submit, Sir, that there are a large number of instances in which the direct interference of the Minister himself has led to corruption, has led to bribery, has led to patronage being distributed. I submit, Sir, that if I had time I would deal with them at length.

So far as the Enforcement Department of the Government of Bengal is concerned I have myself brought to their notice at least half a dozen cases and although all these cases were brought to their notice they have not been looked into. It will not do to say that if specific instances can be brought the Minister will be prepared to look into them. I ask what has happened to the case of Mr. Swami, the Inspector, about whom I have mentioned during previous sessions of the Assembly. What has happened to Mr. Rahman about whose openly taking bribes I have got proof and brought it to the notice of the Department. What again has happened to Ramchandra Das, Amulya Chandra Das' shop where I personally made test purchases?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I have five minutes more, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not possible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Any other Speaker from this side can make up for this time of 5 minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Provided you can adjust the time like that I have no objection.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I shall see to that. Sir, the Enforcement Department has been given any number of instances and if need be I am prepared to take the Hon'ble Minister myself and show him how openly black-marketing is going on in the market and nothing is being done because there are a large number of Inspectors who regularly take money from the market. There are instances in which big quota-holders, members of the respected Advisory Committee of Mr. Suhrawardy even the Chairman of the Advisory Committee who is a pal of Mr. Suhrawardy is not free from corrupt practices and all these things have been brought to his notice but he will not care to look into them.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Who is the Chairman?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. S. C. Roy.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I do not know why this is being done. Only this morning in the "Nationalist" we got a report that a certain Minister obtained 40 pieces of very good fine cloth on special permit issued to himself.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Who is he?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bengal if you must know his name, and that was on the authority of the Civil Supplies Department. While the public were crying hoarse and while there is so much squalour and while there is so much distress every where it is not merely the Chief Minister who gets 40 pieces. Every servant, even a peon, of the Civil Supplies Department goes to the market with slips written out by and on the authority of one Babu H. L. Sarker, Superintendent, Textile Controller's office and buys not coarse cloth—a peon goes

and buys the finest Sen Gupta cloth at the price of Rs. 3-13-6 *plus* 10 per cent., not 20 per cent., and they are getting, the entire Civil Supplies Department is getting, some 2 pairs, some 4 pairs—in that manner they are getting their supplies assured to the exclusion of the public. (Cries of "Shame, shame" from the Opposition Benches.) These servants, these peons can have never in their life used these fine cloths before. I have shown this to Mr. Tully and also to other officials. They admitted that they had left one shop belonging to one of the wholesale quota holders to sell cloth on permits issued by themselves to their officers and their friends. Wonderful arrangements going on! (Mr. DIBENDRA NATH DATTA: "চমৎকার, চমৎকার!") And this shop has been kept alive. It is not one of the 150 shops approved to deal in fine cloth but still this shop is supplied specially with fine cloth, and they are big wholesalers and yet they are given a retail license. That is the history behind permitting them, this trade, in illicit fine cloths to members of the Civil Supplies Department.

Sir, it is not merely in Calcutta but in the mufassal also this is going on. I am also reminding the House about the complaints regarding the Pabna town and complaints regarding Khustia town where how the Subdivisional Officer of Khustia has been surreptitiously taking away bales of cloths meant for Kushtia through a near relation of his to Shazadpur in Pabna district. These facts were brought to the notice of the Minister times without number not merely by me but by members of the Muslim League belonging to Kushtia and I would like to know what has been done in that respect. The Pabna Food Committee has been superseded by the ukase of the local official. I have got a letter only two days back showing the allotment made of the available cloth supply to that town, that out of a total supply the general public—a population of 36,000 people—obtained 1,300 pairs only while Government officials there got an allotment of 800 pairs. Here I have got the actual allotment list signed by the Subdivisional Officer of Pabna. This has been possible only because they have superseded the functioning of the Pabna Food Committee. Sir, I can multiply instances. There are complaints from Kamarkhali, there are complaints from Rajshahi, there are complaints from Meherpur and there are again complaints from Muktagacha and also telegrams and letters from all over the province. Sir, when one talks of the corruption and bribery in the Department, the department should also realise that they have a duty by their own staff. The Textile Department staff—a large number of poor Bengali clerks there—have not been paid their salaries for nearly two months and what was their fault? Probably somewhere somebody has bungled? Sir, surely like the proverbial zamindars and their tashildars Government does not expect that these men would live on some earning that they would make otherwise than through their salaries.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for fifteen minutes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I claim, Sir, that a Central Civil Supplies Committee and local People's Committees be constituted to deal with these questions.

(The House was adjourned for fiteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion on the expansion, wasteful expenditure and losses incurred and estimated in the working of the Civil Supplies Department.

Sir, in the general discussion of the Budget this year there was a strange coincidence. A member of the Opposition and the Leader of the European Group—both came to quote certain passages from the Budget speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and used the same passages as the text of their speeches and spoke, Sir, in a strain of scepticism and doubt: only their speeches were different in degrees of acidity and nothing else. I, therefore, expected (MR. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Foolishly) may be foolishly, that the European Group would be true to their speeches and table cut motions against the "Extraordinary Charges" budget. But not one single motion has been tabled by the European Group so far as this subject is concerned. That is, Sir, the measure of the sincerity of their criticism against the Civil Supplies Department. It may be, Sir, that conviction has been carried to them behind the curtain by the supply of certain facts and figures which they are anxious to know, but, Sir, the whole House ought to have been taken into confidence and apprised of these facts and figures if they are really dependable.

Now, Sir, in my Budget speech I observed as follows: "It is apparent that our Budget deficit during the last two years—I mean the last year and the current year—are not due to famine expenditure, not even to Civil Defence but entirely due to the huge loss sustained by the province on the purchase of food grains. In fact these losses have been more than the deficit by nearly 253 lakhs so far as the last year and the current year are concerned, and, Sir, in the next year the alleged carefully planned Procurement operation is expected to cause a further loss of 564 lakhs—now apparently 3 crores less than the total estimated deficit of 850 lakhs, but larger losses on final adjustment may be trusted to do the trick of equalising these two figures."

Sir, as my honourable friend Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal has gone into the details of the working of the Civil Supplies Department in his elaborate and exhaustive speech full of informations which are available almost to him alone, I need not go into the details of the working of the Civil Supplies Department but will address myself particularly to the losses in question.

Now, Sir, what the huge loss in grain purchase is due to? The loss can be due only to four factors, namely, loss in storage or godowns, due to deterioration or decomposition of stock; loss in transit; loss for gratuitous relief; and loss for subsidised sale of food. Only on account of these four causes, the alleged losses may have arisen. So far as the first question of storage is concerned, will it be believed by the House that stock-taking so far as the purchased stocks are concerned, never takes place in the true sense of the term? Will it be believed that payments are made against purchase notes and the purchaser and the stockist are the same person? So far as decomposition on account of bad storage is concerned, what is there to show that the alleged deterioration actually took place and was not faked and fabricated? As regards the losses in transit, will it be believed again that the R.R. is considered sufficient discharge for the agent or the party who sends the grains in pursuance of the Government order? (MR. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: What is the R.R.?) The railway receipt—the railway receipt is considered to be sufficient discharge for the agent. Now, Sir, the railway receipts in such cases of heavy consignment, as everybody knows, may be manipulated and yet the railway receipt is considered sufficient discharge for the agent. In the railways goods are always booked at the risk of the consignee. Here the consignee has got nothing to suffer personally for the losses, here he accepts the losses as a matter of course. If there be any manipulations in packing and booking and shortages due to mishandling, these are written off as losses in transit. There is a large scope, it must be admitted, for manipulation and fabrication in unchecked despatch of goods.

As regards losses which may be due to gratuitous relief, it has been shown under the head "Famine Relief" that expenditure for Gratuitous Relief so far as 1944-45 is concerned, is expected to exceed the original

Budget figure by 50 lakhs and not by crores and crores as the losses on revision have mounted up to. If, therefore, there had been any loss due to gratuitous relief that loss must be only a fractional amount of the total loss, and a very small fraction indeed, because there was no necessity, so far as the current year is concerned, of wide-spread gratuitous relief and Government also has not claimed that they have rendered this year any widespread gratuitous relief.

Therefore, Sir, all losses must be attributed to sale at subsidised or cheaper rates. Now, Sir, there will be losses, enormous losses, on account of subsidised sale only if there be a very large difference between the purchase and the selling prices, otherwise not. Now, let us see what was the position. Take for instance a central district like Khulna. In 1944, between January and June, paddy was purchased by the Government agent there at best at Rs.7-12; between June and October, it was purchased at Rs.7-8; in November at Rs.7-4; in December it was Rs.6-14; in January, 1945, the paddy price was Rs.5-8 and in March now it is Rs.6-4, but I shall come to that later. We shall see, therefore, that in Khulna last year's paddy was purchased only in about June at Rs.7-8, but since autumn it was purchased somewhere between Rs.7 or Rs.6-14 and by sub-agent even at Rs.5-5. Rice was purchased in Khulna by the agents at a settled price between Rs.10 and Rs.10-8. That is about Khulna.

Now, let us take the western districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Birbhum and Midnapore. In June, 1944, the price of medium rice—I am quoting rice prices in these western districts—was Rs.13-4 at the highest; between June and September it was Rs.12-12; between October and December it was Rs. 12-10; and it never exceeded Rs.12-10 since then.

Now, about subsidised sale I think it is known to the House that even the privileged price at which the employees were or are being supplied rice is Rs. 13-12. How can there be loss, a heavy loss, a loss of crores and crores therefore, we fail to understand. The Minister of Civil Supplies has got to explain how when his agents purchased rice at a much lower price than the price which he even charges his own employees there could or would be such enormous losses as his revised estimates or his new estimates indicate. He ought to explain that to the House stating the actual facts and figures. If he cannot, and if the losses be attributed only or mainly to losses on account of subsidised sale, the legitimate conclusion must be that these losses can never amount to the huge figure of crores and crores of rupees.

Now let us turn to the method of accounting for these losses. Sir, in this budget it is for the first time disclosed that losses on account of purchase of foodgrains were not actually Rs.350 lakhs in 1943-44, i.e., as was stated a year before, but it was something like Rs.939 lakhs. It has been found only a year later that the actual previously stated was not the actual but after what is called final adjustment the losses have nearly trebled. So far as the current year is concerned, the loss in the budget was estimated at Rs.5 crores but on revision it has been shown that the loss has been or will be 50 per cent. higher, that is, it must be, about Rs.7½ crores. So, in the revised figure of 1944-45 instead of the budget figure of Rs.5 crores, a total loss of Rs.13,39 lakhs or Rs.13½ crores has come to be shown without any details or serious explanation. However, I hope, honourable members will please remember in this connection the purchasing and selling prices which I have given and which I shall be very glad if the Hon'ble Minister takes this opportunity to contradict.

Then, Sir, let us come to the next year for which the budget has been prepared. The estimated loss has been put down at Rs.5½ crores. If the loss be attributed again to subsidised sale, why should it be Rs.5,53 lakhs and not very much less, with the famine or famine conditions alleged to be things of the dead past, the Hon'ble Minister has also got to explain, but instead of explaining I am almost sure he will come forward months hence

to say that the loss has unexpectedly become nearly double. Estimates out by crores cause no blush or need no explanation now a days. This is however my general criticism.

Now, to come to a particular point. Hon'ble members are aware that a few weeks or a few months ago, the Government of Bengal offered the Government of India their stocks of surplus rice for sale. Sir, may I put it to the Hon'ble Minister that if he has surplus rice for sale why should he suffer loss on the purchase of wheat and wheat products? Why should Bengalees not have two square meals of rice and why should they be compelled to eat atta? Certainly he need not have sold the surplus stocks of rice, when he could have provided the Bengalee people with two meals of rice and thereby save or avoid almost the whole amount of loss on wheat and wheat products. In conclusion I propose that having regard to the stupendous losses—losses which have grown in the dark, which are growing in the dark and which will grow in the dark, there ought to be a committee of the whole House to go into this very serious question. Sir, it will not do to explain things to the European Group behind the curtain. If the Government have facts and figures at their disposal which will sufficiently explain these losses, let them agree to the suggestion of the formation of a committee of representatives of all sections of the House and let that committee go into the question and find out what really the losses are or are due to and suggest measures as to how far they can be avoided in the year to come.

Sir, my motion is really a motion for enquiry. It is not a motion for condemnation in advance, although the huge figures of enormous losses carry their own condemnation indeed.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the extension of Communal Ratio Rules to Trade and Commerce.

Mr. Deputy Speaker সাহেব, এই নূতন শাসনতন্ত্রের সঙ্গে আমরা একটা নূতন তত্ত্ব পেয়েছি, "সাম্প্রদায়িকতা-তত্ত্ব" অর্থাৎ সর্বত্রই সাম্প্রদায়িক ভাগ বাঁটোয়ারা। সাম্প্রদায়িক সিদ্ধান্তের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে চাকরীতেও ভাগ বাঁটোয়ারা; এবং তারপর আসছে বর্তমানে সমগ্র দেশব্যাপী দুর্ভিক্ষ, হাহাকার, অনটনের মধ্যে আবার সেই বাঁটোয়ারা। সাম্প্রদায়িক বাঁটোয়ারার আমাদের শাসনতন্ত্রে কি বিষময় ফল হতেছে সে সকলেই জানে! তারপর চাকরীতে আজ communal ratio এসে হাজির হয়েছে। সেখানে আমরা জানি যে শুধু জনসাধারণই বিপন্ন হয় তা নয়, Government-এরও সেখানে বিপদ আছে, কারণ Government-এর যে কাঠামো তাতে যদি শুধু সাম্প্রদায়িকতার উপর নির্ভর করে কর্মচারী নিতে হয় ত সেখানে কি রকম বিপন্ন হতে হয়, এই প্রশ্নোত্তরের মধ্যেই মন্ত্রীরা তার কতকটা আভাষ দিতে বাধ্য হন। এখন এসেছে এই দুর্ভিক্ষ এবং এই যুদ্ধের দরুণ দেশে যে অনশনের সৃষ্টি হয়েছে সেখানেও সাম্প্রদায়িকতার প্রসার। Government নির্দেশ দিয়েছেন যে সর্বত্র ৫০-৫০ হারে দিতে হবে মুসলমান এবং অন্যান্য অমুসলমানদের মধ্যে দোকান, permit এবং অন্যান্য সমস্ত বন্দোবস্ত। ব্যবসা এবং জিনিষ বন্টনের প্রথম প্রয়োজনীয়তা যে লোক কিসে পাবে; কিন্তু এখানে লোক পাক বা না পাক, কি রকম করে সেই বন্টনের ভাগ নিয়ে সম্প্রদায়গত একটা আত্মতুষ্টি এবং স্বার্থের সিদ্ধি হবে সেইটাই হচ্ছে বর্তমান Government-এর সবচেয়ে বড় প্রশ্ন এবং সমস্যার বিষয়। কোটি কোটি মুসলমান বঞ্চিত হউক, কোটি কোটি হিন্দু বঞ্চিত হউক সেটা বড় বিষয় নয়; দেখতে হবে যে আমার সম্প্রদায় এবং আমার গোষ্ঠিতে কতটা দোকান পেলো বা না পেলো। কিন্তু সেখানেই শেষ হয়নি। আমি বরিশালের ঘটনাই বলছি। পাপ যখন আসে সে পাপ সীমানা ছাড়িয়ে যায়। আমাদের দেশে একটা কথা আছে যে "শ্রাদ্ধ আলিপা বারগায় গড়ায়েছে"। বরিশালে যেখানে শতকরা ৮০টি হিন্দু দোকানদার আর শতকরা ২০টিরও কম মুসলমান দোকানদার, সেখানে আধাআধি করা হয়েছে দোকানের হিসাবে নয়, সম্প্রদায়ের হিসাবে। কিন্তু সেখানেই শেষ হয়নি। নূতন নূতন মুসলমান দোকানের সৃষ্টি হয়েছে পূর্বের হিন্দু দোকানকে বঞ্চিত করে। শুধু সেখানেই শেষ হয়নি; মুসলমান দোকান যেগুলি অনেক আগে ছিল তাদেরও বঞ্চিত করে হঠাৎ দেখা গেল নূতন মুসলমান দোকানের আবির্ভাব। আমি মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে বলেছি এ সম্বন্ধে Muslim Leagueএর যে Secretary তাঁর যেসাবী দোকানটা সম্বন্ধে যদি তিনি একটু অনুসন্ধান করেন, আমার কথার সত্যতা তিনি পাবেন। কাজেই আজ শুধু হিন্দু দোকানী বঞ্চিত

হয় তা নয়; মুসলমান দোকানী যারা পূর্বে ছিল তারাও বঞ্চিত হচ্ছে আমাদের এই সাম্প্রদায়িক বুদ্ধির হানাহানিতে। এখানেই শেষ নয়। সহরের মধ্যে আধাআধি দেওয়া হচ্ছে কিন্তু মফঃস্বলে সেই অর্ধেকও উড়ে গিয়েছে। মফঃস্বলে এইভাবে বণ্টন করা হচ্ছে, আমি একটি একটি করে এই বরিশাল জেলায় subdivisionএর কথা বলবো: ভোলা subdivisionএ যদি যান, সেখানে দেখতে পাবেন যে যেসব জায়গায় হিন্দু এবং মুসলমান, এই Governmentএরই নির্দেশ অনুসারে ৫০-৫০ অর্থাৎ সমভাবে পাওয়া উচিত ছিল, সেখানে শতকরা ৯০টি জায়গায় হিন্দুরা একটি দোকানও পায় নাই। অথচ পাশাপাশি মুসলমানদের দোকান দেওয়া হয়েছে। সহরে তবু ৫০-৫০ পেয়েছে; তার কারণ (referring to the Civil Supplies Minister) মাথা নাড়ছেন; বড় আমোদ হয়েছে যে ঠকিয়ে দিয়েছি (laughter), খুব আমোদ হয়ে গিয়েছে; সে আমোদ ত হবেই —

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am sorry; involuntary.

Mr. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: কোন কোন মানুষের গোবধে আনন্দ হয়। কাজেই এই দেশব্যাপী এই যে সমস্ত ব্যাপার চলছে তাতে এই ব্যাপারে আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের আনন্দ না হয়ে যায় কোথায়? এখন কথা হচ্ছে যে এমনিভাবে মফঃস্বলে হিন্দুদের বেলায় ঐ যে 50-50 per cent.এর নির্দেশ তাকেও পদদলিত করা হচ্ছে। শুধু তা নয়, যেখানে permit দেওয়া হচ্ছে Government of Bengal থেকে সেখানেও হিন্দুর দুর্গতির অন্ত নাই। আমাদের সেই Controller of Distribution of Cloth Departmentএরই একটি নমুনার কথা বলছি। এটি কাল্পনিক কিছু নয়। দিনাজপুরের সদর S. D. O.'র কাছে সে যায় মূলচন্দ চুণীলাল বলে একজন merchant। সে অভিযোগ এনেছে কার বিরুদ্ধে? না S. P. Rahman, designated as temporary Assistant Controller-in-Chief of Mofussil Distribution of Cloth. তিনি কি কাজটা করছেন? তাঁর গুণ কি? তাঁর সম্বন্ধে একটা জিনিষ জানা যায় যে তিনি শ্রীরামপুরবেড়িয়ার Governmentএর চাকরী করতেন, অসদাচরণের জন্য চাকরী থেকে তিনি বিতাড়িত হয়েছেন। কাজেই সেটা একটা মস্ত বড় গুণ এই বর্তমান Governmentএর কাছে। এবং তিনি হয়েছেন temporary Assistant Controller, তিনি কি মাইনে পান বা না পান জানি না। তবে merchantদের কাছে তিনি বলে বেড়ান যে তিনি বিনা মাইনেতে বাংলা দেশকে ধন্য করছেন। সেটা সত্যি কি মিথ্যা আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলতে পারেন। সেই হিন্দু merchant এসে নালিশ করছে যে ৩০ baleএর permit দেবার order হয়েছে, permitএর জন্য সে ১৯ দিন ঘুরেছে, ঘোরার পর তাকে রহমান সাহেব আভাষে বলেছেন যে ৩০ baleএ তুমি ৬,০০০৲ টাকা লাভ করবে। কাজেই আমাকে কি দেবে সেটা যদি ঠিক না হয় তাহলে permit দেওয়া যায় কি করে। এবং এই প্রকার ১৯ দিন ঘুরে ফিরে যেয়ে সে এই দরখাস্তটা করেছে S. D. O.'র কাছে। আমার কাছে শুধু চিঠি দিয়েছে তা নয় সেই দরখাস্তের copyটা পাঠিয়ে দিয়েছেন।

এইভাবে এক ত control করছেন, তারপর communal ratio, তারপর ঘুষের ratio. কে কত ঘুষ দিয়ে এই সমস্ত permit আদায় করে নেবেন। আমরা জানি যে মানুষের প্রয়োজনীয়তা মেটাবার জন্যই Government. সে প্রয়োজন মিটুক আর না মিটুক, Government বলেছেন তারা নির্দোষ এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমাদের Governmentএর পদলেহী Communist Party বলেছে যে Governmentএর দোষ নয়; যত চোরাবাজারওয়ালাদের দোষ। এই bale প্রতি এই রহমান সাহেবকে কোন কোন জায়গা থেকে— আমি নামের list দিতে পারি, ঘুষ দেওয়া হয়েছে বলে দিতে পারি—bale প্রতি ১০০৲ টাকা পর্যন্ত দেওয়া হয়েছে। এই করে তিনি টাকা নিচ্ছেন। এর পর জিজ্ঞাসা করি যে সমস্ত ব্যবসায়ী ঘুষ দিয়ে তাদের এই permit নিয়ে যাচ্ছে তারা black-marketing করবে না ত কি ঘর থেকে টাকা এনে আমাদের এই সদাশয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের মতন সমস্ত বাংলা দেশকে অন্ন দিয়ে, বস্ত্র দিয়ে পোষণ করবে? কাজেই আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করছি এবং Governmentকে বলছি যে এই যে অমুদার নীতি তা প্রত্যাহার করে যাতে জনসাধারণ প্রকৃত প্রস্তাবে সদুপায়ে জিনিষ পায়, এই সমস্ত সাম্প্রদায়িকতার প্রশ্ন বাদ দিয়ে সেই পন্থা অবলম্বন করুন।

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the unfair and unjust discrimination in the distribution of sugar, kerosene oil, cloth, etc., as between urban population and the rural population and also between Government servants and the public.

Sir, the supply of kerosene oil, sugar, etc., being restricted the question of control comes in and rationing becomes necessary. Every individual member of the society is required to curtail his normal requirements. To make the scheme a success, distribution must be fair and equitable. But what do we find in actual practice? The Government servants and the essential services get the first preference. They get almost their normal time requirements, and some of them manage to get more for their personal benefit. Then, Sir, people living in towns get the second preference. Generally educated and well-to-do people who reside in towns get opportunities of coming into contact with the officials and the authorities. They know how to make their grievances redressed and they cannot be easily ignored. But, Sir, the rural population are the worst sufferers. Of course, there are Subdivisional Food Committees, Union Food Committees and Village Food Committees, but these are so constituted that they cannot influence the local officials and the authorities in the interests of the rural population. Then again they have no control over the allotments made for the rural population. Here also the members of the Union Boards, the members of the Food Committees generally look to the interests of their own family, relations and their supporters. So, the voiceless poor villagers are the wost sufferers. A portion of supplies available for different districts is going into the blackmarket. Recently on the occasion of the visit of His Excellency the Governor to the Noakhali district, the officials raised a purse for presentation to His Excellency the Governor towards the Red Cross Fund. The biggest contributor is a notorious profiteer and blackmarketeer against whom charges are under investigation. and I believe, Sir, that the case has been hushed up in consideration of his contribution. This blackmarketeer is again the selling agent of corrugated iron sheets and those who want to purchase corrugated iron sheets are required to secure permits from a particular officer who is entrusted with this work, viz., the Circle Officer.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Where is his place?

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Noakhali. When the intending purchasers approach the officer for securing permits, they had to contribute something towards the fund which the officials were raising for presentation of a purse to the Governor, in the first week of March recently. Only those who contributed to the fund were granted permits and again there are 600 ration shops in the Noakhali district and these shopkeepers had to contribute at the rate of Rs.50 per shop. Now, Sir, I cannot believe for a moment that blackmarketing is possible without the connivance of the officials in power and authority.

I shall conclude my speech by simply referring to the replies given by the Hon'ble Minister in reply to the starred question No. 35 put by Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherjee in this Session. It has elicited the following reply from the Hon'ble Minister that in the Birbhum district that the *per capita* supply of sugar for the population excepting those who are in receipt of rations from Ration Stores for police officers or other Government employees is 1⅞th chataks per month whereas the *per capita* supply of sugar for those who receive ration of sugar from the Police Ration Stores or Ration Stores for the other Government employees varies from 5 to 14 chataks per week and this holds good more or less with respect to all districts. My object in moving this cut motion is simply to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies to look into this matter and to remove this inequality in distribution.

Maharaja SRIS CHANDRA NADY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion on the working of the cotton cloth and yarn (control) order.

Sir, when the Cotton and Yarn (Control) Order came to be promulgated in June, 1943, high hopes were raised in the minds of the public. It was hoped that the public of this country would be enabled to get their requirements of cloth at fairly reasonable prices and in adequate quantities by raising the output as also by controlling the prices. We have been through the operation of this order for more than two years. It is indeed a tragedy that instead of improving matters, there has been a continuous deterioration of the cloth position, so much so that we in Bengal today are faced with a veritable cloth famine.

Sir, once again in Bengal there is the distressing spectacle of long queues of weary and half naked people, vainly scrambling for a piece of cloth and going back disappointed after long hours of waiting. This furnishes us an uncanny reminder of the fate of the long queues before the control food shops a year ago, and the inevitable prelude which they meant for the devastating famine which Bengal had experienced. The public cannot certainly be blamed if they feel that these and similar other scenes indicate a hopeless mess made by the Government in its arrangements for cloth distribution.

Sir, under the All-India Distribution scheme Bengal has been allotted a definite quota of piecegoods which is stated to be based on population figures. There cannot of course be any doubt that there has been an inadequate appreciation of Bengal's requirements of cloth and yarn by fixing only a quota of 10 yards per capita, as against 18 and 12 in the Punjab and Bombay respectively. Then again, even of this quota allotted to Bengal, a good portion is diverted to other uses, viz., requirements of hospitals, clothings of Civil Defence, A.R.P. and other organisations. There is therefore the basic problem of shortage of supply of cloth and besides pressing for increasing the quota allotted to Bengal, the Government should also simultaneously press the Government of India for allotting separate quota of supplies to hospitals, Civil Defence, A.R.P. and similar other organisational requirements. Sir apart from this question of inadequacy of supply of Bengal's requirements, I think, a much more important point is that of ensuring equitable distribution of the available supply. If we have the present crisis in our mind, we have noticed that the Government have so far failed to appreciate the real needs of the situation, and have evinced a desire to avoid the existing trade channels for cloth distribution. There have been haphazard methods of control and selective distribution and old and established channels of trade have been crippled with a view to distribute patronage to the supporters of the party in power. Throughout the entire mess of this textile control, Government has not assumed any responsibility for distribution. And naturally we have much abuses of power, corruption, bribery and nepotism.

As an instance in point, Sir, I would refer to the report from New Delhi that for five months ending November, 1944, cloth was made available to Bengal at a rate equivalent to 13·9 yards per head per annum against the quota of 10 yards. Over and above this, there is the statement of Mr. Vellodi, the Textile Commissioner with the Government of India, that a regular supply is being maintained, and that there is no reason why there should at all be an acute shortage of cloth in Bengal at present. Mr. Vellodi makes a really damaging statement when he says that "there must be some bottleneck somewhere, and the distribution arrangement must be defective". I have seen the reply of the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy issued in today's press; but I think he has not been able to give a satisfactory account of the destination to which all this supply was being moved.

In his statement issued today, Mr. Suhrawardy has promised us the early introduction of rationing. In a complicated matter like the individual requirements of textile goods, I do not see how far a rationing scheme will be successful, particularly when the supply is so erratic and inadequate. Even then, rationing will take much time to mature. Hence

as an immediate measure I should feel that the Government must tighten up the control system, take charge of the entire stock and assume the responsibility of distributing them through approved shops, the old and existing trade channels being preferred to inexperienced hands.

Sir, before concluding, I would refer to the serious predicament in which the handloom industry has been placed due to the non-availability of yarn supply. The Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industries is reported to have assured a meeting of the handloom weavers of Bengal that his Government was contemplating the setting up of two spinning mills for supplying at cost price yarn to them.

Yarn supply is an immediate necessity with the weavers, and the offer to start a spinning mill for them is something like digging a well to quench the thirst. I should think that the Government, instead of indulging in counsels of perfection like these, would take a much more practical view of the situation, and adopt immediate measures for improving the supply.

Sir, the fundamental point in this cloth famine of Bengal is shortage of supply. This shortage must be removed, and the Government must concentrate its entire energy to impress the needs of Bengal upon the Government of India and secure a much more equitable quota of cloth and yarn supply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I take it that you have not moved the whole of your cut motion?

Maharaja SRIS CHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: No, Sir, only up to control order.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the death of half a crore of the people while lakhs and lakhs of tons of foodstuffs were rotting in different places in the province.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about cloth famine in the province specially in the district of Mymensingh.

I beg further to move that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the supply of uneatable and rotten *atta*, uneatable sugar in the subdivision of Tangail, district Mymensingh and want of mustard oil, *gur*, paper and other necessities of life there.

মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয় আমাদের দেশে লক্ষ লক্ষ ton খাবারের অপচয় হ'লো, এদিকে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক না খেয়ে মারা গেল। এ সম্বন্ধে কত মাল, কত খাদ্যশস্য কোথায় নষ্ট হয়েছে জানবার জন্য প্রশ্ন দেওয়া সত্ত্বেও এ পর্যান্ত Civil Supplies বিভাগ থেকে সে প্রশ্নের উত্তর দেওয়া দরকার মনে করেননি। আমাদের বন্ধু সুরেন বিশ্বাস মহাশয় গেল sessionএ এবং এই sessionএও এই প্রশ্ন দিয়েছেন এবং আরো অনেকে দিয়েছে যে কোথায় কত খাদ্যশস্য নষ্ট হয়েছে। কিন্তু এ পর্যান্ত Civil Supplies তার উত্তর দেওয়া দরকার মনে করেননি (A VOICE FROM THE OPPOSITION : করবেন না) এবং আমার বন্ধু বলছেন করবেন না। এটা অতি সত্যি যে তারা করবেন না। এই যে অর্দ্ধ কোটি লোক বাংলা দেশে অনাহারে অচিকিৎসায় মারা গেল, তারা ঠিক মারা গেল বলা যায় না; তাদের এই Civil Supply বিভাগ হত্যা করেছে বলতে হয়। Sir John Woodhead নিজে দেখে এসেছেন Sibpur Botanical Gardenএ কি পরিমাণ খাদ্যশস্য ফেলান গিয়েছে, নষ্ট হয়েছে এবং ডোবা ইত্যাদি ভরাট করা হয়েছে। সেদিন কাগজে দেখা গেল মাণিকগঞ্জের মত ছোট মহকুমার যেখানে হাজার হাজার লোক মারা গেল, সেখানে এক লক্ষ মণ চাল পচে গিয়েছে। এ রকম যদি প্রত্যেক Subdivisional Officerকে কৈফিয়ৎ দেন যে কোথায় কি পরিমাণ খাদ্যশস্য নষ্ট হয়েছে তাহ'লে বোঝা যাবে যে কি সুবন্দোবস্ত এবং কি রকমে Civil Supplies Department আজ বাংলার অর্দ্ধকোটি নরনারীকে হত্যা করেছে। মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, আমি আমার টাঙ্গাইলের খবর

জানি; সেখানে হাজার হাজার মণ ছোলা এবং অন্যান্য ডাল ইত্যাদি পচে নষ্ট হয়ে গিয়েছে কিন্তু সেগুলি জনসাধারণের কাছে দেওয়া হয়নি। এইভাবে হত্যা করার কি অধিকার Governmentএর আছে? বুদ্ধি তাঁরা রাজতক্তে বসে ক্ষমতাশালী হয়েছেন, ক্ষমতাপন্ন হয়েছেন, কিন্তু পৃথিবীতে কি এমন কোন শক্তি নাই যে হত্যা করার অপরাধে তাদের টেনে বার করে দিয়ে তার উপযুক্ত শাস্তি দ্যায়? (Hear, hear, from the oppositon benches) কিন্তু এঁরা মনে করবেন না যে এইভাবে দিন কেটে যাবে। দিন আসবে যখন জাতির কাছে তাদের কৈফিয়ৎ দিতে হবে এবং জাতি তাদের শাস্তি দেবে। মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, তারপরে আসলো আমাদের বস্ত্রের অভাব। এইমাত্র মহারাজা কাশীমবাজার বলে গেলেন, Textile Departmentএর ওখান থেকে বলেছে India Governmentএর যে বহু কাপড় বাংলায় বেশী এসেছে, সাত হাজার bale কাপড় বাংলার quota থেকে বেশী এসেছে, কিন্তু সে কাপড় গেল কোথায়? আমার বলতে হয় সেই জোয়াল প্রসাদের কথায় যে, "There is a bottomless pit in Bengal" সেই তলাশূন্য গহ্বরে বাংলার খাদ্যশস্য যেমন গিয়েছিল, বাংলার কাপড়ও ঠিক সেইভাবে প্রবেশ করেছে। আজ একটা জিনিষ মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয় আপনার মারফৎ আমি জানতে চাই যে, কেন বাংলার কাপড় তিব্বতে এবং চীনে, বিনা licenceএ প্রেরিত হচ্চে। এবং এইমাত্র আমি একটা note পেয়েছি, "How this cloth was given from the deficit quota of Bengal". তারপর আর একখানা চিঠি মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয় আপনার মারফৎ পড়ে Houseকে জানাবো। চিঠিটা এসেছে আমার বন্ধু করুণাকুমার দত্তগুপ্তের কাছ থেকে। কালিম্পং থেকে চিঠিটা লিখেছেন, ১লা চৈত্র, ১৩৫১, সুহৃদবরেষু, আপনাকে আজ একটা নূতন খাঁটি সত্য সংবাদ দিচ্ছি। কিছুকাল হোলো এখানকার শ্রীরাম অর্জুন দাসের দোকানে এক হাজার bale সূতা এসেছিল। তাহার মধ্য হইতে ৫০০ bale সূতা এর মধ্যেই তিব্বত চলে গিয়েছে। বাকি ৫০ baleও শীঘ্র যাইবে। কতকগুলি চীনা এই মাল তিব্বতে পাঠাইতেছে। এই দশ হাজার bale সূতা ছাড়া দশ হাজার গজ কাপড়ও তিব্বতে শীঘ্র যাইবে। এই খবরটা Assemblyতে তুলবেন।

মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, একটা কথা আমার এখানে মনে পড়ে, আমাদের বাংলা দেশে একটা কথা আছে যে "আপনার বাপের শ্রাদ্ধ হয় না, বেয়াইএর বাপের শ্রাদ্ধ কর"। আমি আমার মাননীয় সুরাবর্দী সাহেবকে বলতে চাই যে, তুমি তোমার Provinceএর, তোমার প্রদেশের, যেখানকার তুমি মন্ত্রী সেখানকার লোক উলঙ্গ থাকে কি না সেটা তুমি দেখো, তিব্বত উলঙ্গ থাকে কি না, চীন উলঙ্গ থাকে কি না সে দেখবার কর্তব্য বাংলার মন্ত্রীর নয়। মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, আজ এই কাপড়ের সমস্যা, খাদ্য-সমস্যা নিয়ে যখন নাকি আমরা চেঁচামেচি করছিলাম যে, police, C. I. D. Department black-marketingএর জন্য পাঠিয়ে দাও, কিন্তু তাঁরা একটা Enforcement Department করেছেন। Enforcement Departmentএর অর্থ আমার বন্ধু বলেছেন enforcement of black-marketing সেটার যা অবস্থা দাঁড়িয়েছে তা পাড়াগাঁয়ে প্রচলিত ভাষায় বলতে গেলে বলতে হয় "চাচা চৌকীদার, আর ভয়ের কারণ নেই"। মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, আজ আপনার মারফৎ আমি বলতে চাই যে বাংলার এই যে Enforcement Department যেটা ওঁরা করেছেন, সেই Enforcement Departmentএর একজন officer আছেন Mr. Muslim; তিনি non-matric cousin of Mr. Sahabuddin and Mr. Salim.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ray, I hope you will try to avoid mentioning the names

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA RAY: All right, Sir, this is a fact Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, এই নাম কাল সভায় বিবেচিত হয়েছে তাতে আপত্তি হয়নি—

Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: May I inform you that this gentleman is not an employee of the Civil Supplies Department of the Government of Bengal.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA RAY: মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, Civil Suppliesএর তিনি নিযুক্ত আমলা হোন্ বা না হোন্, তিনি এই বাংলা Governmentএরই যে কোন বিভাগের —

Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: না, এই বাংলা Governmentএর কোন বিভাগেরই তিনি আমলা নন্।

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA RAY: একটা তাত টিপে দেখতে হয় যে ভাত সব ঠিক সিদ্ধ হয়েছে কি না। এই যে একটি মাত্র দৃষ্টান্ত আমি উপস্থিত করলাম এতেই আমাদের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় চেঁচিয়ে উঠলেন।

Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: কেন মিথ্যা বলবেন আপনি?

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA RAY: আমি মিথ্যা বলিনি; আপনি ক্ষেপবেন না। বাংলা বোঝেন তো? মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, এই যে অবস্থা দাঁড়িয়েছে বাংলায়, Police Department, C. I. D. Departmentএর হাতে দিতে এঁদের ভয়ের কারণ কি? এই চাচা ভাই চৌকিদার তৈরী করে যাতে নাকি black-marketingকে রাতারাতি চালাতে পারেন সেজন্যই কি এই সব Enforcement Departmentএর সৃষ্টি? C. I. D. Departmentএর হাতে ছেড়ে দিন; বেরোবে কে black-marketing করে?

মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, আমি বলতে চাই আমার মৈমনসিংএর কথা। দশ গজ হিসাবে quota যদি মৈমনসিংএ ধরা যায় তাহলে মৈমনসিংএ মাসে ৬ হাজার বেল্ কাপড় সেখানে দেবে। কিন্তু দেখা যাচ্ছে মৈমনসিংএ ৪ হাজার বেলের quota মঞ্জুর হয়েছে। কিন্তু আজ ২০ মাসে মৈমনসিংএ ৩৩৬ বেল কাপড় গিয়েছে, এক মাসের quotaও সেখানে যায়নি। (A VOICE: যাবে, যাবে।) তারপর মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, সূতার কথা এখানে বলতে হয়। যে সূতা টাঙ্গাইলে যেতো তা দিয়ে কাপড় তৈরী হ'তো এবং দেশ-বিদেশে সেই কাপড় প্রেরিত হ'তো। আজ সেই টাঙ্গাইলের তাঁতীরা অন্যাভাবে মরছে। সরু সূক্ষ্ম সূতা টাঙ্গাইলে যায় না। সূতা বহু গিয়েছে, ৯৪ বেল্ জানুয়ারী মাসে গিয়েছে, কিছু বেল Februaryতে গিয়েছে, কিন্তু তার মধ্যে মাত্র ২ বেল সরু সূতা গিয়েছে; এক বেল ১৮০নং আর এক বেল ১৬০নং। বাংলার কৃষকেরা গেল বৎসর মারা গিয়েছে, এবার তন্তুবায়রা যাবে।

তারপর আর একটা কথা—আমাদের মাঝী জেলেদের জন্য জালের সূতা কোথাও যাচ্ছে না বাংলা দেশে; এবং যেগুলিও যায়, সেগুলি যে কিভাবে বিতরণ করা হয় সেটাও খোঁজ করে দেখা চাই।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ray, how long will you take?

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA RAY: আমার চারটে motion আছে, আমি দশ মিনিট নেবো, ২½ মিনিট for each motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know my difficulty.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA RAY: All right, I will finish it Let me have two minutes more. এ যে কিভাবে বিতরণ হয় সে জিনিষটার দিকে আপনার দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি। কোন জনসাধারণের প্রতিনিধিদের সঙ্গে পরামর্শ করা হয় না। সূতা যায় এবং কার কার সঙ্গে পরামর্শ করে কিভাবে বিতরণ হয় সেকথা তাঁরাই জানেন। টাঙ্গাইলের S. D. O. এবং A. D. C. S. সাহেবের সঙ্গে পরামর্শ করে ইচ্ছামত বিতরণ করেন। আর একটা জিনিষ টাঙ্গাইলের খাদ্য সম্বন্ধে বলতে ভুলে গিয়েছি। তিন টাকা বারো আনাতে যে ধান Government সরবরাহ করেছিলেন সেই ধান ৭॥০ টাকা দরে বিক্রী হয়েছে। মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, এ ছাড়া অখাদ্য আটা, অখাদ্য চিনি। আজ ৬ মাস টাঙ্গাইলে আটা ছিল না। আমি জানি, এই A. D. C. S.এর কাছে নিজে গিয়ে; তিনি বলেন, "এ আটা এবং এ চিনি আমি কাকেও দিতে পারবো না।" সে নীলামে বিক্রয় হবে কিছু। তারপর টাঙ্গাইলে কেন সমস্ত বাংলা দেশে সরষের তেলের যে অভাব হয়েছে তা সকলেই জানেন; অবশ্য মন্ত্রীদের মাখবার নয়, খাওয়ার তেল। আজ "আনন্দবাজার" পত্রিকায় খবর বেরিয়েছে যে mill মালিকরা resolution করেছেন। Government যে সরষে আনান্ তা দিয়ে তাঁরা ভূত তাড়ান কি কি করেন তাঁরাই জানেন, কিন্তু mill মালিকরা পায় না। সে সরষে কোথায় যায়। কিন্তু যদি মিল মালিকদের সরষে আমদানী করবার জন্য permit দেন তাহলে বাংলার এই সরষের তেলের অভাব হয় না। আর একটা কথা, ছাত্রদের জন্য কাগজ কোথাও পাওয়া যায় না। এক দিস্তা সাদা কাগজ দুষ্প্রাপ্য; ২৲ টাকা-আড়াই টাকায়ও এক দিস্তা সাদা কাগজ পাওয়া যায় না। Governmentএর কাছে একথা বলা সত্বেও কিছু হয়নি। এই বলে আমি আবার cut motionগুলি move করছি।

Mr. I. D. JALAN: Sir, with your leave I beg to move the motion standing in the name of Sj. Manindra Bhusan Sinha that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the rottenness in Civil Supply administration and thousand and one sufferings to the people resulting therefrom.

Sir, in discussing the budget with regard to the Civil Supplies administration I cannot but say that the history of this department is a history of inefficiency, corruption, nepotism, want of plan and co-ordination. It created the food famine of 1943; it has now created the famine of cloth in 1945. The position is that the policy which the Government has followed with regard to the textile trade is absolutely barren. The real difficulty arose when during the Puja holidays and the Id holidays there was some scarcity of cloth and Government began to freeze goods which were in circulation. I do not dispute the proposition that sometimes freezing of stocks becomes necessary, but at the same time you have to see that the goods which are frozen are delivered as soon as possible and the distribution of the frozen goods is made in a proper, *bona fide* and efficient manner.

In my last speech I stated that thousands of bales which were frozen during the months of September, October, November and December are still lying undelivered. My friend the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies disputed that proposition. I do not know if he has now looked up the records of the department to find out as to what the state of affairs is. Sir, I shall give only a few particulars—not of Marwaris because I know that the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies is very angry with them, but I shall give instances of Europeans, and of Mahomedans, because I am quite sure that they will be immune from the penalties which this department may in its discretion inflict upon others.

I am giving you the particulars of a few Freezing Orders:—

Freezing Order No. 9/4804, dated the 9th November, 1944, of 30 bales of yarn of Messrs. Anderson, Wright & Co.

Freezing Order No. 19/11258, dated the 19th December 1944, of 70 bales of yarn of Messrs. Anderson, Wright & Co.

Freezing Order No. 1780, dated the 24th January 1945, for 118 bales of Messrs. Anderson, Wright & Co.

Freezing Order No. 9/10060, dated the 9th December, 1944, for 27 bales of Messrs. B. N. Elias & Co.

Freezing Order No. R/71/4, dated the 28th September, 1944, for four bales of 32 count yarn with Ayub Ali Md. Ibrahim.

Freezing Order No. 3506 of one bale of 20 count yarn, dated the 31st October, 1944.

Freezing Order No. 4202, dated the 6th November, 1944, for 16 bales of 40 count yarn.

There are other orders, dated the 13th November, 1944, 28th November, 1944, 22nd December, 1944, and 19th January, 1945. All these goods were lying with this firm up to the 20th March, 1945.

I have given you only instances of a few persons, because I consider them to be safe. Otherwise I have got records of at least 4,000 bales which are lying frozen at present. I have got the quantity of goods, date and number of freezing order and practically everything with me. I do not say this because I want to discredit the Ministry. I wish to say so because unless you put the goods in circulation immediately they are frozen how is it possible for you to remove this cloth famine. My request therefore to the Ministry is that if they decide to freeze the goods whether they are yarn or cloth they should see that permits are issued within 5 days or 7 days and not only permits are issued but delivery is taken. I know that, so far as the Textile Department is concerned, it is stated that, so far as their records are concerned, only 6,000 bales of yarn were not delivered in January last, whereas the market report was that the number of bales were about 20,000. The reason was that permits were no doubt issued but the goods were not taken delivery of for want of money.

Now, Sir, Government has appointed one handling agent, a monopolistic concern, in order to take delivery and to finance the entire stock of

yarn which is to be distributed in Bengal. Instead of distributing these things through 4 or 5 persons, in the name of efficiency this Ministry is concentrating upon one man in order to distribute the entire yarn in the province. The result is that the firm invested Rs. 40 lakhs in order to take delivery of the goods and it cannot finance more to take delivery at once unless the price is received back from the Subdivisional Officers concerned. I am saying this: please do not create monopolistic concerns. Please do not create vested interests whether it is Mr. Ispahani or whether it is Mr. R. P. Saha, but you should see that, so far as the trade interests are concerned, they are properly protected. Now, so far as the Ministry is concerned, I draw the Ministry's attention to the complaint which was made by the Marwari Chamber of Commerce at the time when Government issued the freezing orders. At that time the complaint was that permits were issued without any principle or even rules or regulations against requisitioned goods. There were inordinate delays and permits were issued to persons who were not suitable or *bona fide* and had no business or, at the most, a small business in cloth during the basic year for which they were selected as agents. Several permits were issued without the names of the permit-holders. Blank permits were issued; permits did not even bear the dates and in several permits the dates were changed without the initials of the authorised persons and several of the permits were found to be mutilated. The committee drew the attention of the Provincial Textile Controller that the permits would lapse if not presented within 5 days of their issue by the dealers to whom they had been issued, but the committee is unable to understand the reason why the same rule was not fully enforced by this time. It was also represented by the committee that a copy of the permit should be sent to the dealer concerned, but the same was not sent. Inordinate delay took place because Government insisted that distributors in the mufassal must belong to a particular community and if a member of that community was not available let there be two months' delay, they did not mind, but a Hindu should not be given the work. If this be the policy of the Ministry, how can the people have confidence in the Ministry? (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Read the letter.) No, I can't read the letter. (Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: The Marwaris have done all this.) Sir, I have heard this remark before. (Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: You will hear it many a time.) Now, Sir, who are the persons who are dealing in Colootola Street? Who are the persons who are dealing in Murgihatta and selling commodities at 10 times the price? Who are the persons who are dealing in these fine goods? So far as fine goods are concerned, 150 shops have been approved by this Government, out of which only seven shops belong to Marwaris. Now, may I ask you, Sir, as to whether you can get fine goods there? A piece of dhoti which used to be sold at Rs. 10-11 is being sold for Rs.54. Who is responsible for this situation? (A voice from ministerialist benches: Quotaholders.) No, not the quotaholders but the persons who are approved dealers.

Now, Sir, it is no use blaming entire communities. There are some good men and bad in every community, Europeans, Indians, Hindus, Christians, and Muslims who are guilty of such practices but not all. Even in England there is blackmarketing, and in order to combat that Sir Charles Tegart has been appointed. The thing is that you should not lay the blame at the doors of a particular community. You are creating a smokescreen in order to snatch away the trade from their hands. That is the policy which Government has adopted. From the Provincial Textile Advisory Committee, a proposal came that, so far as rationing is concerned, distribution should be made through persons who are regular traders in the basic years 1940, 1941 and 1942. The voting was 8 to 8. But Mr. S. C. Roy seems to be the special favourite of the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies. He cast his vote against this proposal. Why? Because the Ministry wants to distribute its patronage by giving approved shops to such persons who can support it or who can otherwise satisfy it. (Mr. A. M.

ABDUL HAMID: Name them.) If you see the list of approved shops, you will find that in the Dhurramtola area 34 shops have been given when there were 200 to 300 licencees, whereas in the Burrabazar area 15 approved shops have only been given when there are 5,000 licencees.

So far as Mr. S. C. Roy is concerned, he is the Chairman of the Textile Advisory Committee. He is the General Manager of the Aryasthan Insurance Company. His only qualification is that he is the Chairman of the Dakeswari Cotton Mills. Now he has been elected as the Chairman of this Textile Board. (Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: He is not a member of the Muslim League.) He is not a member of the Muslim League, but I am quite sure he is more than a member of the Muslim league. He shows himself to be a Hindu but really he is a first class Muslim leader. What I suggest is this: "If you want to introduce cloth rationing do it by all means but please do it in a planned way. You must do it in a well-planned manner and in the matter of distribution you must take care of all those who have been in the regular trade without distinction of caste, creed or colour". With regard to the personnel of distributing agencies I would say that patronage must cease and there must be well-defined principles for it. The Advisory Committee must be dissolved and a judicial enquiry into the releases should be instituted. With these words I resume my seat.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the working of Civil Supplies Department, specially (*i*) in the scarcitiy of cloth, sugar, kerosene, etc.; (*ii*) in the inequitable distribution between the rural areas and urban areas; (*iii*) corruption in the department; (*iv*) favouritism and nepotism shown in the appointment of dealers; (*v*) apathy in checking black-marketing and profiteering—rather encouraging the black-marketeers and profiteers; (*vi*) want of co-ordination between the Subdivisional Officers and Food Committees; and (*vii*) appointment of food committees.

Mr. Depety Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a discussion about the administration of Drug Control Order also.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot move it.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: All right, Sir. Much has been said with regard to the matters mentioned in my motion No. 53. I shall speak only about the corruption in the Department and want of co-ordination between the Subdivisional Officers and Food Committees. I shall try to cite certain instances which have been brought to my notice. First of all I shall try to quote the instance of the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies, Bakarganj. He is Mr. A. Z. Khan. He was a Sub-Deputy Magistrate and is now working as Assistant Director of Civil Supplies for a long time. He is a partner in a firm which is known as "Khan Brothers". It is well-known that Government officers cannot be in any business, but as a matter of fact the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies runs a business along with a collectorate clerk in the name of Messrs. Khan Brothers in the town of Barisal. Messrs. Khan Brothers were started with practically no capital of their own but the said firm has now accumulated a decent capital by dealing only in Government controlled goods allotted and delivered to them by the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies on credit from time to time. The said Khan Brothers are getting more goods than the actual weight from the local Government store-keepers for reasons best known to them and the difference between actual and recorded weight is shown as

loss in transit to make the Government record balanced. The Government Godown delivery books and papers in connection with the delivery of articles to Messrs. Khan Brothers as also to others if compared will clearly show how the things have been allowed to be done with regard to Government goods. The said Khan Brothers are getting 54 per cent. of the entire district quota of sugar as wholesale dealers while all the other wholesale dealers are getting only 46 per cent. of the same. The said Khan Brothers are the district wholesale dealers, coal agents, salt agents, sugar agents, cloth agents, standard cloth retail agents, standard cloth handling agents, Government rice purchasing agents (1944), sole agents for atta and flour for the Barisal town, cotton yarn and woollen goods agents and as such are getting about 38 per cent. of the entire quota of all such items, if not more. The said Khan Brothers are allowed to draw an extra commission of annas 4 to annas 6 per maund of atta and flour from the retail dealers and consequently the retail dealers are also charging such an amount from the consumers.

On 19th May, 1944, about 800 bags of red rice of approximately 2 maunds each were sold from the Government stock to Messrs. Suresh Brothers and G. C. Gupta and Co., Barisal, at Rs. 8 per maund, but after the delivery was made to the above firms 90 bags of good white rice were detected from the said lot and the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies ordered the said firms to hand over those 90 bags of rice to Messrs. Khan Brothers.

Those were the complaints against Khan Brothers and there are many other complaints which it is impossible to enumerate in such a short time. The complaints against the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies, Barisal, were sent to the Director of Civil Supplies, Bengal, and copies were forwarded to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies, Bengal, and also to the Food Member, Viceroy's Council. I do not know whether the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies has received the complaints mentioned, and if so what steps have been taken against the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies who is running a business in the name of Messrs. Khan Brothers in Barisal town.

Then with regard to the want of co-ordination between the Subdivisional Officers and Food Committees my friend, Dr. Sanyal, has referred to certain instances in the town of Pabna. I have received a letter from the Pabna Town Food Committee signed by Manindra Chandra Majumdar who is the Secretary. He has complained that the Subdivisional Officer himself has kept a large quantity of rationed food instead of handing it over to the Food Committee for distribution in the town of Pabna. That is my experience also of the town of Brahmanbaria. There are Food Committees everywhere. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies in his statement published in today's papers has said that the Food Committees are functioning very properly. But as a matter of fact the Food Committees specially the town food committees are not allowed to function properly by the Subdivisional Officers who hand over the articles to their own chosen dealers——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Please allow me 5 minutes more. Sir, one gets nervous when one sees the flash of the red light.

Before I take my seat, Sir, I want to say a few words on the administration of the Civil Supplies Department. I shall in the first instance refer to the terrible famine of 1943 which was due to the bungling of the Civil Supplies Department. Now we have got a cloth famine in the country. Then I am afraid due to Drug Control Order of Government there is going to be a famine in drugs and medicines, especially in the outlying mufassal areas. You are aware, Sir, there is a relation between the wholesale and retail dealers in drugs and medicine. Then there has been an amendment to the Drug Control Order in 1945 which is to be given effect to in the early part of March, 1945. Previous to this amendment the

wholesalers had to allow a discount of fifteen per cent. to the retailer on the retail price, keeping for themselves a margin of profit of five to ten per cent. The retailer therefore got an additional profit of five per cent. and this was given to the retailer to cover incidental charges for packing under sections 1 and 2 of Schedule A. Government now thinks that the discount should be reduced and has introduced the new amendment whereby the discount of 15 per cent. has been reduced to 12½ per cent. and the wholesaler has been asked not to charge for packing from the retailers. Now, Sir, if five per cent. was not considered sufficient for packing how can the wholesaler meet the packing charges on a two and a half per cent. discount. The wholesalers stay in the mufassal and they are given 2½ per cent., discount for giving packing free to the retailers. Now, Sir, the packing and other incidental expenses would require at least ten per cent. of the value of the goods and as a result the wholesalers have stopped packing medicines to outlying districts in the Chittagong Division where the cost of packing would be much more. As a result of this I am told by a well known firm of chemists and druggists that they have stopped sending medicine to those areas. Sir, if this state of affairs is allowed to continue we shall get no medicine in outlying districts, especially in the Chittagong Division, which will bring disaster in the mufassal. I shall be glad to hand over the viewpoints which were placed in the explanatory note and the Vice-President of the Chemists' Association sent a memorandum to the Excise Commissioner who is administering the Drug Control Order. I also want to make over a copy to the Hon'ble Minister in charge and I shall be glad if the Hon'ble Minister looks into the papers and tries to remedy the defects. Otherwise, there will be a famine of drugs in the mufassal and disaster will ensue.

I now finish, Sir, because I cannot go on without your permission in the face of the red signal over there, by commending my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. R. A. H. STEVENSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my time is limited and I will be as brief as possible. Firstly I wish to draw the attention of the House to the Budget allotment for the A.R.P. Services under the heading of Civil Defence, secondly, to bring to Government's notice the absurdity of the "Black-out" Regulations at present in force, and thirdly, I wish to suggest that immediate action be taken by Government in regard to providing employment for disbanded A.R.P. personnel.

It appears from the Budget which has been placed before us by the Hon'ble Minister that in spite of the impending demobilisation, which we hear has been ordered, of the A.R.P. Services in all areas except Calcutta, Dacca and Chittagong, and the major townships, the gross expenditure estimated as being required for the coming year stands at three crores seventy-one lakhs of rupees, of which this province will have to pay one crore twenty-one lakhs. This estimate shows a reduction, over the actual expenditure incurred by the Province in 1944 of only 2 lakhs. In view of the curtailment in personnel which is taking place and will, we hope, take place in the near future to an even greater extent, this reduction seems ridiculously small.

A plea has recently been made in the Central Assembly for the lifting of Calcutta's "Black-out" and I understand that the Government here have been in touch with the Military authorities regarding a partial relaxation of the Air Raid Precautions in this city, apparently with a negative result. If this is the case, we must be prepared to accept the present peculiar position, though regretfully and not without a very real feeling that the "Black-out" Regulations for buildings, which are in force, are more in the nature of a "farce" than anything else. A "Black-out" which is observed half-heartedly by the civilian population and only honoured in the breach by Military personnel is obviously, even to the meanest intelligence, utterly useless. Another glaring misnomer, and I use the expression "glaring" intentionally, is the "Black-out" Regulation in force in regard to the

lighting of vehicles. These rules are only observed by civilian owners of cars who are compelled to do so by the police, while the majority of vehicles of a special type make practically no pretence towards reducing the illumination given by their headlights. Were the present situation not the cause of considerable danger to all and sundry it could be treated perhaps, in a similar spirit of jest to that in which the authorities appear to observe the Regulations. I cannot believe that the owners of Civilian Vehicles would drive their cars about the streets of Calcutta with the headlights full on during the period of an Air Raid alert, should there be one, and I would suggest to Government that they should relax the present restrictions on the lighting of Civil Vehicles, so that as far as lights go, at any rate, these should be on equal terms with Military lorries. There is no possibility that the risk of Air Raids on this city could be increased by action in this direction, and I would urge Government to give the matter their immediate and sympathetic consideration as soon as possible.

Sir, in view of the excellent progress which is being made by our magnificent Armies and Air Forces in Burma, and the liberation which is going forward from day to day of further large tracts of that country, it is becoming increasingly likely that sweeping reductions in the personnel of the A.R.P. will soon become possible. I would like to know if Government have made any cut and dried plans for helping men to obtain employment on their release from the A.R.P.

From questions which have recently been asked in this House and the replies given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, we understand that various District Officers and others have been asked to help in finding employment for the personnel which has been discharged. We are, however, left with the impression that no systematic plan has been formed, and there is no one officer who has been charged with the responsibility of attempting to find employment for these persons.

A considerable proportion of these 30,000 employees of Government have received special training and there should always, provided the attempt is made, be no difficulty in the way of many of them being absorbed in Government service or the Police or Civil Pioneer Forces.

I maintain that if the A.R.P. Wardens who are at present being discharged, or will in future be discharged, cannot be absorbed by Government departments straightaway, then it is Government's responsibility to have these men trained to make them fit to take up the duties of the personnel which we understand Government lack at present, and will lack still more in the future for Post War Reconstructional Development.

In conclusion I would urge, Sir, that a Special Officer of senior rank should be appointed immediately to prepare a definite scheme for the training and absorption in Government service of personnel now being demobilised from the A.R.P. services.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no desire to indulge in a long speech at this late hour of the day. I would only begin by adding my support to the suggestion just now made by my honourable friend Mr. Stevenson with regard to the relaxation of A.R.P. regulations in Calcutta. If I am not divulging any secret I might inform the Hon'ble Chief Minister that as far back as January, 1943, it was practically decided by the Central Government that A.R.P. restrictions would be altogether abolished in the cities in Upper India. Bengal could not possibly think of any such hazardous action during those times but I think the position of Calcutta today is probably on a par with the position of the Upper India Cities in January, 1943. Judging from that point of view I think it would be only fair and proper and without the slightest risk undertaken by the present Government if they decide upon a wholesale

relaxation of the A.R.P. restrictions in Calcutta, particularly those which are extremely galling to the civil population when standing face to face with the open defiance of such regulations by the military personnel.

Sir, a long series of charges have been brought on the floor of this House during these budget discussions against the Government on the score of corruption, nepotism and jobbery. Indictment has been framed by the members of the Opposition with such telling effect, in my submission, that it has gone home even to the Hon'ble Minister, who can certainly stand up and give a reply in his own inimitable way and can secure a majority in this House to vote down these cut motions. But that is certainly no solution of the problem. They have got a majority, they can flout this indictment, they can overlook these charges; but that is no solution of the problem which has gone deep into the heart of Bengal and which is the talk of people everywhere wherever responsible people assemble. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No.) I am sorry to hear that interjection from the Hon'ble Minister. If the Hon'ble Minister chooses to live in his own paradise and shut his ears to the complaints which are loud and insistent all over Bengal, he can certainly choose his own course, but I had a better idea of the sense of responsibility of the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy. I am sure that in his heart of hearts he realises that the situation is getting more and more difficult, the situation is going completely out of hand, and with all his ability and efficiency if he can today summon the requisite amount of public support and sympathy and that moral force without which a situation of this character cannot be tackled by any Government, it is then and then only that he can stand up before the people as a Minister charged with solving the most difficult problem which faces the Ministry and the Government today.

Sir, the allegations made on the floor of the House have made out conclusively that the administration is a festering cesspool of corruption, jobbery and nepotism. It has been conclusively proved by innumerable instances brought from different quarters and localities of this province that not only the administration but the trade in most cases is actuated by greed, by selfishness, by anti-social motives. I am not bringing the charge against the trade generally but there are people amongst traders who always delight in indulging in selfish ways and methods of hoarding and profiteering, and they are the people who are having the best of it from the officials in the mofassal. I am not talking of those who are more highly placed and are situated in Calcutta.

Sir, it has just been brought to my notice that members of the Assembly belonging to the Coalition Party, particularly the Muslim League, are having a free run of official patronage in the shape of shops, in the shape of permits, in the shape of licences. (Cries of "No, no" from the Coalition benches.) I shall be very glad to hear a denial and an authoritative denial supported by facts and figures in reply to the charges which have been so successfully supported by facts and figures on the floor of this House. (Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: Give out the names.) Well, I desisted from mentioning the names. If my honourable friend who wants the names will come to me after the meeting is over I shall be glad to supply the names. Does my friend who just ejaculated know of a concern known as the Bengal Cloth Dealers' Corporation of Howrah? Who is running the show? Is he not sitting there on the Muslim League benches—a Muslim League M.L.A.? I will put this straight question. Who is running the show so far as yarn is concerned in Dacca? This is public property now after the debate in the Council the other day. Who is doing it? It is painful for me to multiply instances. These instances have been given on the floor of the House by members of the Opposition. It is no pleasure to me to think that my countrymen, whether in office or out of office, can lend themselves to such corruption and such jobbery. It is painful for me to think that I am capable of the same thing if my brother across on the other side is

capable of it. (DR. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: What about the previous Government?) That old cry about the previous Government will not save this Government once and for all and if that be the only answer then this Government stands condemned. I am not holding any brief on behalf of any officer, on behalf of any Minister in any Ministry or any Cabinet so far as corruption and jobbery are concerned. It pains me, it stabs me in the heart to think that my countrymen are capable of such meanness, as to make use of their position of power and office for the purpose of such anti-social activities for their own interest. While sitting here from day to day I was listening to this indictment. It pained me to hear that it is possible for my countrymen to stoop so low. My friend Mr. Jalan reminded us that black-market operations were rampant in Great Britain and a great police officer of this country, now retired, has been placed in charge of tackling this problem. That is no consolation to us. Why should we, the people of this country, stoop so low when the vast majority of our countrymen are so down and out, are so very down-trodden from every point of view and are suffering in every respect. Why should we, those who are more fortunately placed in the matter of education, in the matter of position, in the matter of status and power, why should we not think of them first and think of ourselves afterwards? I am not here to sermonise. I am not here to put forward copybook maxims. But I am appealing to the Hon'ble Minister who is faced with a tremendous task in this awful situation. I am appealing to him.

I read in today's paper his interview with the Press. Apart from the question of cloth rationing, which is a debatable matter and about which we have not formed our opinion, we may have our doubts as regards the success of that scheme if it is executed in the way in which things are being done under the present Ministry I have got my doubts. But one thing I liked—that note of sturdy opposition to the Government of India which marked the observations of the Hon'ble Minister. That is what I liked. I want my Minister in this province to stand up like a man against the Government of India and face them and all their oddities and partialities in the matter of cloth distribution and in other respects. I want him to do that, and that is the note I liked in his observation yesterday. I am sure that the majority in this House which is standing behind Mr. Suhrawardy or the blessings and good wishes of the European party will not be of any avail in stamping out black-marketing and profiteering. He requires the solid support of a strong vigilant, wide awake public opinion in this province, and that public opinion he cannot secure so long as he does not put his own house in order. If communalism, nepotism, political considerations and personal grounds—if these rule the day so far as distribution of supplies is concerned, well I am sure that he will not be able to call up that enthusiasm and that moral force in this province which alone can succeed in stamping out all these anti-social elements in this province.

I will appeal to Mr. Suhrawardy, if I may, standing from my place in the Opposition, that he must call to his aid all those elements in this province which can render him such support as to organise public opinion in this province. Public opinion, the value of which he of all people in this Ministry ought to know very well, having worked with him for close upon a decade in other spheres—I know he will appreciate the value of public opinion, and that public opinion cannot be called up by a Ministry which was formed and which has worked purely on communal considerations. (Cries of "not communal" from ministerialist benches.) Sir, the word "communal" is an anathema to some of my friends. I do not know a better word; that is why I used it. My honourable friend ought to remember that it is a Ministry which is backed and supported by the united voice of all the communities in this province and all the parties in this House which alone can stand by him in this crisis. The blessings of the European party will not stand him in good stead in creating that atmosphere, that enthusiasm in this province which alone can save the province

in this difficult situation. He must call upon his countrymen irrespective of communal or party affiliations to stand by him in helping him in the tremendous task that he has undertaken.

Sir, just consider the position. In the allotment of quotas, an organisation like the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan which is rendering signal service to our city and to the province for the amelioration of the condition of sick women and children has its sugar quota reduced to one-third all of a sudden, nobody knows why. Chittaranjan Seva Sadan is a national institution of outstanding position having regard to its association with the hallowed name of one, who commanded the support, sympathy, obedience and respect of his fellow countrymen, and the most valuable service it is rendering to children and women in this city and in this province; Their sugar quota is reduced to one-third, while the sugar quotas in other directions are multiplied by leaps and bounds. That is the position, Sir. I request the Hon'ble Minister not to be a party to a situation of this character in this province. These are the things which raise suspicion in the public mind; these are the things which go deep against this Ministry; these are the things which he must stand up and try to rectify.

Look at the freezing orders to which Mr. Jalan has drawn attention. Well, there must be a time-limit without which you can for months and months keep these large stocks of cloth stored away in Government godowns or in the godowns of those parties whose goods have been frozen. You cannot do that and, at the same time, tackle a situation of the kind through which we are passing in this province.

Sir, I am not going to take up the time of the House any more. My one suggestion today is that the Ministry cannot deal with the situation standing on the exclusive and communal platform that they have taken; I say you cannot take your stand upon the Muslim League platform and yet conjure up that enthusiasm and that sipirit of co-operation and sympathy in the province which alone can save it from further disaster. I will ask you, Sir, to allow me to bring home, if I may, to the Ministry that difficult situations require drastic remedies. And unless they alter the constitution of the Government and the constitution of the party and the method of their adminisration, it is impossible for them to check the tide of corruption, jobbery, nepotism and the continuous flow of anti-social elements which are overflooding the whole province. It will never be possible if they stick to the policy which they have at present adopted of satisfying their own friends and their own party men.

I conclude, Sir, by saying once again that our sympathy and support will go to any Government which will stand against this evil in a fair, straight and honest manner. (Applause.)

Mr. D. CLADDING: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is difficult to follow so eloquent a speaker as Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu. But I want to say just a few words about this very serious question of corruption in the public services.

I do not believe that corruption in the public services is as widespread as some members have alleged, but I am afraid it is a fact that there is more of it than there used to be, and that it has affected a small minority in services which hitherto had a name for integrity. The temptations afforded by war-time expenditure have, of course, been greater than anything hitherto experienced and largely account for this change.

Government acknowledges the problem, and claims to be much concerned about it. Sir Nazimuddin described last night the measures which he had taken and was proposing to take. So far as they went, I thought that those measures were good and useful; but they seemed to me to fall short of what is required. They were too much of the pattern of the usual routine of circular. If Government really means business, something much more drastic must be done. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Opposition benches.)

I have been trying since last night to discover whether I could offer any practical advice, and a number of suggestions have occurred to me. I will give the milder ones first and follow them up with more revolutionary suggestions to which I attach more importance.

In the first place, there is far too much delay in bringing officers to trial. Departmental proceedings should be short-circuited altogether or be completed quickly; and the police, when seized of a case, should prosecute it swiftly. I need not mention names, but there are two cases of members of a high service much in the public mind. In the older of them departmental proceedings, I understand, have not yet been completed; and in the younger of them the hearing in the preliminary court at Alipore is being put off from day to day, because the police have not yet completed their case. Swift action and swift retribution should be the slogan.

Secondly, I would change the law by an ordinance so that it makes the offence cognisable. This would give the machinery of the law a better opportunity of discharging its functions and make it more difficult for the offender to cover up his traces.

Thirdly, I would change the law so as to shift the onus of proof from where it now lies. Instead of having to prove that a person has received such and such a sum corruptly, the person should be made to prove that he received it uncorruptly.

Fourthly, in my drive against corruption, I would make it a rule of service that officers must keep accounts of their private affairs, liable to inspection by Government at regular intervals or at notice. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Opposition benches). Their banking accounts should be open to inspection.

Fifthly, I would institute a properly paid detective service, charged with the special duty of unearthing corruption.

Sixth and lastly, if the Ministry really means business, they should centralise the whole machinery so as to get it away entirely from provincial influences.

The detective service, the prosecuting police service and the special court should all be central, just as in the United States of America the corresponding field is covered by what is called the Federal Bureau of investigation.

These, Sir, are the ideas which have occurred to me. I commend them all to the consideration of Government, and lay special emphasis on the last.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I am sorry that the debate has dragged on to such an extent leaving me very little time to reply to the innumerable points which have been raised during the course of discussion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We can sit till 9 p.m.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: One section of the House is prepared to sit, but I believe another section is not.

Sir, I shall deal with the points which have been raised as far as it is possible for me to do so and as sympathetically as possible, because I do feel that the administration of the Civil Supplies Department touches the life of the people to such an extent that any criticisms regarding this Department should be treated with consideration. The first point which was raised by Dr. Sanyal referred to the expansion of the Department. It is true that this Department has expanded and I am afraid is going to expand still further. The expansion that has taken place has been mostly on the lines recommended by the Committee presided over by Mr. Justice Braund. But apart from that so many new duties are being forced on the Department from time to time, so many unforeseen duties indeed, that

there is no alternative but to keep pace with the growing responsibilities. For instance, you call upon me to weigh the foodgrains cent. per cent. to inspect them at all the several supply stations and to keep a proper record and an account of them. You ask me to ration cloth, to control cloth from beginning to the end. How can that possibly be done without the expansion of the Department? More than that, what I do consider ought to prove one of the most important sections of the Department is the Enforcement Section. There are so many matters in the Department that have to be looked into, so many complaints that must be enquired into, so many evils that must be stamped out that a proper Enforcement Department is absolutely essential. All these cannot be set up overnight and when they are set up they will cost money. I am afraid, Sir, that honourable members will have to vote the expenditure if they want the Department to be run efficiently, properly and satisfactorily and to give them adequate service. Sir, I do feel that unfortunate is the person who has the misfortune if I may use that word to serve in the Department of Civil Supplies because no one, however honest he may be, however great his integrity and honesty may be, can escape from the attacks, the venomous attacks of members of the Opposition. Attack the Ministry by all means; tear us up and drag us down. That is your duty, your political duty. But leave the officers free, those officers about whom you do not know anything. Leave them alone and don't try to traduce them on the floor of the House. So many names have been taken. I need not refer to the whole list, but I am sure it will suffice if I start with the man mentioned at the beginning and end with one referred to at the end. These attacks must, for instance, cause great pain to a gentleman of the type of Mr. Aldridge who has given us unstintendly of his services and contributed so much towards the solution of the food problem, to be referred to in the manner in which Dr Sanyal has done.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What was the net result?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That surely is plain. If I may without interruption continue to speak, a man of the high talents of Mr. Aldridge, who has placed his services at the disposal of the Government of Bengal free at our most earnest request, a man who comes with the highest prestige from the Middle East, a man who has done a job of civil supplies with a great deal of ability and integrity, a man for whom I have the greatest respect (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When did you know him?) should not have been criticised or referred to in the slighting manner in which Dr. Sanyal has done. Take the case of Mr. Griffiths who leaving a fairly warm position has taken upon himself the onerous duty of organising the Enforcement Department—a man who has come here in a honorary capacity and is working night and day in the performance of his duty. There again, for persons who know nothing at all about him and who just come here for political reasons to traduce him is extremely unfair. I need hardly refer to the other names—names of other officers who are assisting us in solving the very difficult problems which have overwhelmed this Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How many posts does Mr. Griffiths hold?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: What does it matter? He is a man who has come and is doing his job with so much assiduity——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is all humbug.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is very unfair on the part of Dr. Sanyal to speak about him in that way.

Other points have been raised regarding the failure of Government to maintain supplies and reference has also been made to the number of deaths during the famine. I think, Sir, that we have passed that stage, and I need not refer to those remarks except that there is one honourable member

who has stated that as many as 50 lakhs of people died during the last famine. Let us stop all this trash as soon as possible. So far as our figures go, and I believe, these figures are correct to a very large extent, I don't think that more than 7 lakhs of people have so died. (Interruption.) It is no use interrupting me. That is the view which I hold and I believe is more or less correct and I speak with a full sense of responsibility. (Interruption.) Let honourable members on the other side search their own hearts and find out who is responsible for these deaths.

One honourable member has flourished certain cash bills and complained of an incident which took place on the 17th March 1945. I shall certainly look into that complaint. But I am glad to find that he has testified that the quality of rice is improving in Calcutta. An honourable member has referred to the complaint of the North Bengal Rice Mills Association that they are being compelled to sell their stock of rice at Rs. 9-8 and their stock of paddy at Rs.5-8. This step has been taken after a great amount of consideration and I can quite understand why the North Bengal Rice Mills Association complain against it. When we first started procurement operations, we put the price at a level at which rice was being freely offered in the market. That price was Rs. 5-8 per maund for paddy and Rs. 9-8 for rice and at that price the North Bengal Rice Mills Association and all mills of Dinajpur purchased considerable quantities of rice and paddy. But in order to give a better price to the agriculturists, because it was considered that the first price was not quite fair to the agriculturists and might affect future production, we raised the procurement price. But that is no reason why the mills who have purchased from the agriculturists at low prices should get the benefit of the higher purchase price.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But the Ispahanis!

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The price was raised for the benefit of the agriculturists of Dinajpur and not for the benefit of the trade or private parties; and the difference between the previous price and the subsequent price in respect of existing stocks should accrue to the benefit of the Government of Bengal and the people of Bengal.

Now, Sir, a further point has been raised that we have miserably failed to maintain civil supplies and even salt was mentioned in passing. Of course, there is ample salt but it is impossible for us to increase the quota of sugar and kerosene which is limited, and the most that we can do is to distribute them in the best manner possible. So far as sugar is concerned our policy is that we are going to send to the rural areas a larger proportion of sugar than last year and we propose to deprive Calcutta of its present quantum. I hope the honourable members will sympathize with the privations of the rural population and the people of Calcutta will make some sacrifices for them. As regards mustard oil, Sir, the position has been more or less regularised at the conference that was held at Patna, the United Provinces Government agreeing to the supply of a larger quota of mustard seeds for Bengal. We hope that when the supplies begin to arrive we shall be able to solve the mustard oil problem of the province. This will begin in the month of April.

Referring to wheat prices the reason why the loss has occurred is that we had to destroy a considerable amount of atta that came from the Punjab. I hope the honourable members will throw their minds back to the period when it was pointed out that a great portion of the atta was lying for a long time in the Punjab ready for shipment that it took a considerable time on the way to Calcutta and it also took a further considerable time to go from Calcutta to mufassal. Obviously, the result was that the greater portion of this atta had to be destroyed——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Through whose bungling?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: There was no bungling but it was due to the circumstances of that particular period. I knew that we were going to undertake this task and I pointed out most vigorously to the Government of India and to the Government of the Punjab that they should not worry about the apparent profit that we were making at that particular moment because that would be wiped out by the prices that we were going to settle later on and by the losses on deteriorated stocks. As a matter of fact we reduced the price of atta, the Government of India interfered at the instance of the Punjab and the people of Bengal are now suffering the consequences.

Now, Sir, I do protest very strongly against the use of such words as corruption, bribery and jobbery in the department. But then the honourable members opposite have got a sympathetic press and plenty of money at their back with which they can send out wires all over the world and they can go on repeating as usual the charges of patronage, corruption and jobbery. I can claim that so far as this department is concerned there cannot be any such charge to which the department can plead guilty.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about Ramaswamy?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: He may refer to the case of one Ramaswamy but that is a particular instance of a small little man somewhere who was entirely lost sight of. Sir, it is the greatest possible achievement of the Civil Supplies Department that Dr. Sanyal cannot find out any other case than the case of this wretched man, Mr. Swamy.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about Rahman, Mukherjee, Bhattacharjee, and Khan? How many cases do you want?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I need not refer to any of the other points that have been raised. So far as Mr. Swami's case is concerned I have asked for an enquiry. This enquiry is being held and it takes some time to get hold of the papers and to come to findings. The report has not come to me as yet. Apparently it takes a long time for the papers to be examined and thereafter to take decisions on them What happened I can assure Dr. Sanyal will be found out and will be investigated into and he need not worry about it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about Rahman, Bhattacharya and others?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: All this will be investigated if specific charges are made. I know Dr. Sanyal has not spared any one. These unfortunate people, to whom he has referred and who are paid by the Government of Bengal, therefore are in a position of being maligned and abused behind their back on the floor of the House where they cannot come and protect themselves. He referred to another honourable gentleman to whom I wish to pay my tribute but against whom one of the unfairest attacks has been made on the floor of the House. I refer to Mr. S. C. Roy who is the Chairman of the Textile Advisory Committee. I did not know Mr. S. C. Roy at all. He was appointed as a Textile Technical Advisor to the Government of Bengal when the Textile Committee was first constituted. I shall ignore his attacks and all those of his clan. He has attacked Mr. S. C. Roy who cannot reply to them altogether.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But you are there to defend him. What have you got to say?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, if the honourable member goes on making running comments in this way—and that is supposed to be fairplay on the part of the Opposition—I cannot proceed.

Mr. S. C. Roy was the Textile Technical Advisor when the department was under the control of the Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Labour.

When Mr. Elkins left, Mr. S. C. Roy was found to be so useful that he continued to remain as honorary advisor. Now he is the Chairman of the Textile Advisory Committee and his advice to the Government of Bengal has been of the utmost value. I pay to him and to his knowledge my tribute on the floor of this House.

Sir, I deprecate a certain conduct which has been ascribed to an employee of the department, Mr. H. L. Sarkar. I do not know who this gentleman is but I suppose he is the Superintendent of the office. It transpires, according to Dr. Sanyal, that he had issued permits to the peons and servants of the Civil Supplies Department to enable them to go and purchase cloth. As a matter of fact this has got to be understood in its proper background.

Now, Sir, 150 shops were selected and a certain amount of fine cloth was distributed to those shops. Outside those shops queues began to collect at once—queues not of persons who ever have worn fine cloth but queues of persons in torn rags who were put up there for the purpose of getting cloth from the shops and possibly reselling them in the black-market.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That was your achievement.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Whatever that may be I am not going to reply to these running comments.

Now, Sir, the solution which has been suggested by the Maharaja of Cossimbazar to the effect that we should take over all the stocks and distribute them through the approved shops is not a proper or adequate solution. Now, Sir, on account of this reason, I suppose, this officer probably gave permits to certain people in order that they might be able to purchase cloth without having to stand in queues. I deprecate, Sir, that these should have been given to employees of the Civil Supplies Department because I take it that the employees of that department or of Government or of anyone must stand on the same footing as the ordinary public. I am going to look into this matter and take what action I consider necessary in this behalf.

Now, Sir, I will come to a rather important point which has been raised by my esteemed friend Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri. He has referred to what really and most vitally affects the province, viz., the losses in food-grains, and he has asked and demanded and very rightly demanded an explanation as to how these losses in food-grains have occurred. I propose to give it to him to the best of my ability. These losses can be divided into three sections: (*i*) losses due to subsidised sales, (*ii*) devaluated stocks, and (*iii*) to deterioration, although the losses in transit cannot be ignored.

I shall deal with deterioration and losses in transit first because it is on this score that the greatest amount of loss appears to have occurred and the greatest amount of loss did occur on this score in the famine years of 1943 and 1944. Therefore, in order to understand these losses, you must consider what was the situation at that point of time. I would ask the honourable members to recall that all of a sudden the Government of India sent us stocks here which we had to clear at very short notice. All the railway yards were full of wagons and the Government of India insisted that they should be cleared and, as a matter of fact, if we wanted food-grains, they had to be cleared in as short a time as possible. It was not possible for us to weigh those stocks. It was not possible to find out how much of that which had been consigned and how much of the weight as noted in the Railway Receipt was actually received and how much had disappeared on the way. You will remember that at that moment practically all the wagons that came from Northern India were bored on the way by means of drills at the bottom and rice, atta and all such commodities were collected by the people *en route*. So, all that we could do at that moment was to clear whatever there was and to pay whatever was asked for.

From the station these went to the handling agents and when these went to the handling agents and went into their stock, at that very moment it was not possible also to weigh them. Sir, I have attempted to clarify somewhat the position that prevailed at that moment for the information of the honourable members present here. Thereafter we had to go on taking those stocks. It was clearly not possible to go in for cent. per cent. weighment; where we weighed 10 per cent. of the stocks we had to accept whatever the handling agents reported as the quantity received by them. Then we sent stocks to the mofussil by boat and rail and all along the route, as honourable members know very well and as they have debated on the floor of the House, the food-grains shrank and a much lesser stock arrived on the other side. Now, whose was the responsibility cannot be fixed at this stage. It is easy, sitting here when the conditions are better, when we have time to make further arrangements, to say why was not this done at that particular moment. This is one of the reasons why there has been losses in transit.

Now, as regards deterioration, the position is as follows. We had not only to send stocks all over Bengal, but had to maintain stocks in all the godowns. The stocks had to be maintained in order to keep price at a satisfactory level. We have seen instances in which as soon as we removed stocks from a certain place because there was no off-take, prices went up in that area at once. I will give you an instance. We had to keep certain price regarding Kishoreganj. You may remember that all on a sudden we read in the papers that the price was going up in Kishoreganj We made frantic efforts to send food-grains from wherever we possibly could. We sent Boro, Aus and Aman. As soon as the stocks arrived there, the local market price fell down, without any off-take from Government stock. The stock in the hands of the traders came into the market and all the stock we had sent to Kishoreganj remained lying in the godowns unused. We have therefore to maintain stocks in all the vulnerable parts of Bengal whether they are taken up or not. You may ask me why we should do so where there is no off-take. They do have certain value by their very presence there. They keep down prices and grains flow into the market and confidence is restored. (Mr JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Would not immediate distribution of stocks have that effect?) I am coming to that point, viz., the question of distribution. Distribution is no remedy; it may lead to temporary depression of prices; but the price will rise again if there are no stocks to fall back upon: for safety's sake, therefore, these stocks have to be maintained. As regards the extent of deterioration we have taken a census of all the stocks throughout Bengal with the staff at our disposal. That staff, as you know, is not a technical staff; that staff is not made up of traders and we have not been able to ascertain how much of that stock is good, how much is on the point of deterioration and should either be distributed or sold as fodder and how much has deteriorated beyond reprieve. Orders have been issued to sell deteriorating stuff at once at a low rate and today if there are people who are prepared to purchase our stuff at Rs. 8 a maund, I am prepared to sell it to them. This is the step that we have taken regarding deterioration. Now, what I do wish to point out is that in this system of distributing stocks far and wide throughout Bengal with a storage which was not competent to deal with that stock, in this system of having to maintain stocks for the purpose of maintaining confidence, some deterioration is bound to take place and this deterioration will be much more than takes place with an ordinary trader who has not to maintain stocks. A trader will just purchase enough stock which he can turn over, but we have to maintain stocks and these stocks fortunately are there and, I think, are a very great insurance against any possibility of recurrence of famine or of scarcity.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: There is just one question. How would the fact that there are so much deteriorated stocks create confidence in the public mind?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: As a matter of fact, I am glad that my friend has raised the point. The amount of deterioration is not so excessive as it is believed to be. Last year there was a considerable amount of deterioration in the foreign stock which arrived. It came deteriorated and it deteriorated further in our godowns but this year I am happy to say after making the survey that the stocks which have been purchased by our chief agents are in good and sound and marketable condition and there is very little deterioration in them. Whatever deterioration has taken place is in the stock of foreign rice which has been left over from the last year. Therefore, I hope that next year the amount that will be set off against deterioration will be very much less.

But actually our losses have been considerable on devaluated stocks and subsidized sale. I will ask honourable members to consider that we have purchased stocks at all kinds of prices. If you take three years running, as several members have done for the purpose of showing that there has been a considerable amount of loss, you will find that rice has been purchased at Rs. 35, Rs. 32, Rs. 30, Rs. 28, Rs. 26, Rs. 24 and so on and it has been sold at Rs. 24 and less. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: 35 when?) That was the highest price. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: From Ispahani?) Whoever he may be. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Can you give me the date and the place?) If Dr. Sanyal comes to me at any other time, I shall tell him. Now, we have purchased at high level and we have sold it at low level of prices. This loss has gone under the head "subsidised sale" and not under the head "devaluated stock". You will realise that the average price of such stocks remained high, but in order to bring about confidence in the country and in order to lower the price of rice in the general market, we lowered the price of our stocks, and we had to set apart a considerable amount for devaluation. Supposing we have got 5,000 tons of rice at an average price of Rs. 22 and we bring the price down to Rs. 16 and sell it to the wholesalers at Rs. 16, obviously at once we have to sustain a loss of 6 × 5,000 rupees. (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Are these actual figures?) These are not the actual figures, but I am giving them in order to bring home that if the price of rice is lowered, there is bound to be a loss. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Give us accounts.) (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will you give us facts and not fictions?) The loss comes under "subsidised sale" of food-grains. Under this head we maintain that the price of procurement was far greater than the average price of procurement throughout Bengal. It has increased with storage charges, with movement charges, with godown charges, with handling charges and with all the various other transport charges, such as coolies, boats, and buffalo carts. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It can never go beyond Re. 1 per maund.) We know that Dr. Sanyal is talking through his hat and he is speaking of the days when we could transport one maund of rice from Calcutta to Dacca for 14 pice, but today it cannot be transported for less than Rs. 1-4 per maund. This is the position. So you will realize what difference there is between the previous expenses and the present expenses. Now, all these charges are there and these charges have been calculated. With regard to this I can only say that so far as I am concerned I myself am not entirely satisfied with the position and with the scale of charges. I am looking into the matter and I have earnestly requested Mr. Aldridge to examine the details. In his first report he has already been able to find out many loopholes that can be filled up. I am hoping that we shall be able to decrease these costs considerably. The position is that at that time when we were really facing a crisis and we had to do with whatever materials, were at our disposal, it was not possible to examine the expenses meticulously.

Sir, I have taken a considerable amount of the time of the House but I have dealt with the main points. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about boats?) Sir, so far as boats are concerned, I shall deal with that matter more fully tomorrow. (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: What about Mr. Gladding's suggestions? Are you going to take them?) Before I deal

with that I shall pay my special attention to what Mr. Jalan has said with regard to frozen goods. Sir, he need not be afraid. Nobody is going to be adversely affected. We have demanded returns from everyone to inform us how many frozen bales they have in their possession, but unfortunately the trade is not co-operating with us and is not giving their returns. If Mr. Jalan can help us in that direction, I can guarantee him that within a very short period of time, we will take over all the bales and pay the money to the traders. I can assure him that we shall not be distinguishing between traders—whether they are Marwaris, Hindus or Europeans. (Mr. I. D. JALAN: There are Government records.) It may be that there are more bales frozen than the Government possess records of. Sir, I refute the charge that there has been any communalism. I have always tried to maintain justice between the communities. It has been said that trade should be limited to those only who did business in the basic years of 1940, 1941, 1942. I may tell the House that these basic years were fixed by the Textile Commissioner for the benefit of quota-holders and importers. In Bengal after the bombing at the end of 1941 a large number of gentlemen who transacted business in those years ran away from Calcutta and Bengalee Muslims and Hindus stepped in, took over a portion of the trade, and were given licenses in the years 1943 and 1944. Sir, I do not wish to penalize them and I will not make any differentiation between them to their detriment and any other persons who deserted us at the time of our need.

Sir, one word more and I have finished. I will refer to Mr. Gladding now. Mr. Gladding has made certain suggestions which are worthy of the utmost consideration. We are most anxious to see that corruption is eradicated from all the Departments, and we shall certainly take certain steps for that purpose and not merely confine ourselves to circulars. I feel, Sir, that if we do create a proper Enforcement Department it should carry on its duties wholly without regard to the persons against whom it proceeds. In this manner only it will be an independent Department, that will not be touched by any Ministers—whether it is by myself or by anybody else. We must give them absolute and complete liberty to get on with their job. If this is done, I think a great deal of evil that is bound to occur when public officials come in contact with the trade will disappear. I have tried, Sir, to get rid of this evil by setting up Food Committees. I have tried to divest the officers of responsibility of coming into contact with the trade. I have left the distribution to the representatives of the people, and if they have failed—as certain honourable members suggest they have failed which I do not admit—it is a sad commentary on public life. One cannot do more. I have passed on the duties and responsibilities and the rights to the representatives of the people and I do say . . .(Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Your nominees?) Not my nominees. I am prepared to say this in defence of the Food Committees that they may have failed in one or two places, but in many places—not one or two, but in a hundred places in most of the places they are doing their job magnificently and where officials and non-officials are co-operating with each other, the distribution is indeed quite satisfactory.

I sympathise very greatly with what Mr. Stevenson has said. I wish to speak standing down as a humble citizen of Calcutta and not as a Minister that I do think that we are entitled to protest against the discrimination in lighting against civilians and the licence given to the military. Probably Government think that the military are all more responsible than we are. Probably they think that when necessary the military will turn out the lights whereas civilians won't and that civilians may give signals to the Japanese overhead. Sir, I have to refute any such charge. I think that we are entitled to be placed in the same position as the military. If the military want us to observe the black-out, they must themselves observe it before they can expect proper compliance on the part of civilians.

Before I close, I would like to refer to a remark which has been made by Dr. Sanyal regarding the alleged purchase by the Hon'ble Chief Minister

or by somebody in his household on a permit or challan of 40 pieces of sarees. This, it is said, is reported in a paper called "The Nationalist". I thought that "The Nationalist" was a paper worthy of some consideration, but I am not prepared after today's experience to pay the slightest attention to it. I am prepared to call it a rag which is not worth reading and the reason why I say so is this. Before I come to that, I want to tell the House that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has emphatically denied that he ever got a challan from anybody, or a permit from any one in the Civil Supplies Department or sent out anybody for the purchase of a single pair of dhotis or sarees and he has asked me to challenge anybody to prove it and he will be prepared to prove it in a public enquiry, in any private enquiry or in any court of law. Sir, it is plain——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I can give out the name of the shop.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You can do anything you like. I do not know to what extent the honourable member is protected in this House. In spite of this denial, which I am making with a full sense of responsibility, let him try and write about it and then we shall see what action can be taken in the matter.

Now, Sir, this paper is a rag. I find a report here of a certain debate which took place in another place where a whole series of charges had been levelled against the Ministry. Reference had been made to me as a partner in a certain concern. At that place, I said "that is a damned lie". It was a damned lie and I owed a proper explanation to the House why I used such strong language. The reason is this. While these persons in the Opposition charged us with jobbery, corruption and nepotism, I treated those statements with contempt. I have been thinking that these gentlemen being in the opposition they are entitled to say whatever they like. But we find that they, with a very servile press at their elbow, are disseminating this throughout India and I do think that it is up to us whenever an opportunity occurs to nail the lies to the counter. I said that it was a lie, and as I said, I challenged honourable gentlemen opposite and the members of the other side to prove the statement against me. What does this rag say? It refers to the charges made but it does not refer to the denials at all. On the other hand it says this:

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. This House is entitled to hear the Hon'ble Minister in refutation of the charges made on the floor of the House, but it is not permissible to the Hon'ble Minister to brand a paper which we have not got before us.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am referring to the paper which Dr. Sanyal referred to this afternoon.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I referred to a particular report in that paper. The newspaper report which is not available to us cannot be referred to by the Hon'ble Minister for reviewing and making a comment thereon. If the Hon'ble Minister has got any grievance, he must read out the whole report to the House and then make his comments. He cannot take this opportunity of bringing in something personal.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is referring to certain matter and is quoting from certain newspaper. It is not a confidential document.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: He is not quoting at all.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Dr. Sanyal referred to that paper in the first instance.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: He cannot pick and choose. Without reading out the whole report, he cannot reply. If he wants to reply, he can read out the whole thing and then reply.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: My reply is this. When a paper like this which shows such partiality, which prints all the accusations and does not print the denials and which goes so far as to say that Mr. Suhrawardy has avoided meeting all these charges, when such a paper publishes any statement, treat it with the contempt which it deserves.

The motions of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about (*i*) maladministration of the Department of the Provincial Textile Controller; (*ii*) corruption in the Department of the Provincial Textile Controller and failure to check black-marketing in cloth and yarn; and (*iii*) urgency of setting up a representative Textile Board at the Centre with people's committees at each distribution zone with a view to ensure equitable distribution, and also

that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about (*i*) organisation of the Civil Supplies Department and its expansion; (*ii*) losses on the sale of food to the public and in the procurement operations generally; (*iii*) corruption in and maladministration of the Civil Supplies Department; and (*iv*) failure of Government to ensure equitable distribution of cloth and yarn,

were then put together and a Division taken with the following result:—

AYES—49.

Abdul Wahed Bokainagari, Maulvi.
Badi Ahmed Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Haji.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Mr. Upendra Nath.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mukherji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra, Cossimbazar.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.

NOES—79.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Halim Molla, Mr. Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Metaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrah).
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Kazi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Barma, the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Faziul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Faziur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Faziur Rahman, Khan Bahadur (Mymensingh).

Ferguson, Mr. F. F. M.
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Leisk, Mr. John.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Taraknath, M.B.E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Norton, Mr. H. R., M.B.E.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Thorman, Mr. C. M.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Zillur Rahman Shah Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 49 and the Noes 79, the motions were lost.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion on the expansion, wasteful expenditure and losses incurred and estimated in the working of the Civil Supplies Department, was then put and lost.

The motion of Sj. Narendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand of Rs. 10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the extension of Communal Ratio Rules to Trade and Commerce, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the unfair and unjust discrimination in the distribution of sugar, kerosene oil, cloth, etc., as between urban population and the rural population and also between Government servants and the public, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maharaja Sris Chandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion on the working of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, was then put and lost.

The motions of Mr. Charu Chandra Roy that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the death of half a crore of the people while lakhs and lakhs of tons of foodstuffs were rotting in different places in the province; and

that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about cloth famine in the province specially in the district of Mymensingh; and also

that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a

discussion about supply of uneatable and rotten atta, uneatable sugar in the subdivision of Tangail, district Mymensingh, and want of mustard oil, gur, paper and other necessities of life there, were then put together and lost.

The motion of Mr. I. D. Jalan that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the rottenness in Civil Supply administration and thousand and one sufferings to the people resulting therefrom, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs.10,14,71,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the working of Civil Supplies Department, specially (*i*) in the scarcity of cloth, sugar, kerosene, etc.; (*ii*) in the inequitable distribution between the rural areas and urban areas; (*iii*) corruption in the department; (*iv*) favouritism and nepotism shown in the appointment of dealers; (*v*) apathy in checking black-marketing and profiteering—rather encouraging the black-marketeers and profiters; (*vi*) want of co-ordination between the Subdivisional Officers and Food Committees; and (*vii*) appointment of food committees, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin that a sum of Rs.10,14,71,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India", was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8-50 p.m. till 4-45 p.m., on Friday, the 23rd March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 23rd March, 1945, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALAUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 180 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Organisation of National War Fronts in districts of Bengal.

***220. Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Publicity Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the aims and objects of the National War Front organised in the districts;

(*b*) the method and character of the composition of such organisation;

(*c*) the heads under which money is allotted and spent and description of allotting, supervising and auditing authorities;

(*d*) the particular Government fund out of which expenses are met; and

(*e*) how money is drawn and deposited and how accounts are kept and checked?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary Mullick): (*a*) Briefly speaking the aims and objects are the following:—

(1) Consolidation and strengthening of the common will to resist aggression.

(2) Creation and maintenance of public morale.

(3) Counteracting of fifth column activities.

(4) Organisation of defence parties.

(5) Studying of the war-time needs of the people and devising means to meet them with their co-operation and assistance.

(*b*) The organisation is entirely a non-official one. The District Organisation in each district is in charge of one or two District Leaders who are prominent non-official gentlemen. There are sub-leaders and workers under the District Leaders. The District Leaders are helped by a District Directorate comprising non-official gentlemen who come from all sections of the people.

(*c*) and (*d*) The Heads are "63—Extraordinary charges in India—C. Miscellaneous—National War Front". Funds are allotted by the Government of India and the expenditure is supervised by the Provincial Government and audited by the Accountant-General, Bengal.

(*e*) Money is drawn through Audit Office in the usual manner. Only for certain contingent expenditure, money is drawn and deposited in the personal ledger account in the name of Provincial Organiser in the Reserve Bank of India. The accounts are kept as usual and checked by the Accountant-General, Bengal.

Mr. ATUL CHNDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*)(*1*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been done so far towards consolidation and strengthening of the common will to resist aggresion?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Public morale is now on a strong basis. For this credit must go to the National War Front for organising meetings.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the aggression referred to refers to British aggression—civil, military and police?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: No.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it has occurred to the National War Front that the most effective method to create and strengthen the will to resist is by establishing a National Government?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that is a matter of opinion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: My question is whether it has occurred to them. It is a matter of opinion but whether this opinion did occur to them.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anyway I do not allow that question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who guides the policy of the National War Front?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: The Central Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*)(*2*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the "e" at the end of the word "morale" is a misprint and should be "s"—whether it should be "morals"?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: That is all right.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the committees in the districts have option to work according to their own choice or have to strictly follow the policy that is formulated by the Central Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Within the policy laid down by the Central Government they have their discretion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the characterisation of the National War Front in the Central Assembly as an organisation of liars?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: I am not aware of it.

Sj. MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in details how far these objects stated in answer to question (*a*) have been achieved?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*b*) that the organisation is entirely a non-official one, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any non-official political party in India, particularly the Muslim League, has extended its active co-operation in the work of the National War Front in this province?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: I am not aware of it.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if the organisation is an elective one or is appointed by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Committees are appointed in consultation with District Leaders.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*b*) that the organisation is entirely a non-official one, in view of the answer just now given that these bodies have to carry out the dictates and follow the policy of the Central Government, why does the Hon'ble Minister describe this as non-official organisation?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is also a matter of opinion.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us who appoints the District Leaders or whether the District Leaders are elected?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: They have been appointed by the Provincial Organiser.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the District Leaders have any remuneration either direct or indirect for serving as Leaders in the National War Front Organisation?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: No.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*)(*5*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the National War Front has so far done anything to meet the present cloth situation?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Yes, Sir, it does. One of the objects is to study the war-time needs of the people and devising means to meet them, and admittedly the cloth situation is such a need.

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: So far they have helped in explaining to the people various controls, helped in distribution and they have been members of Food Committees, and to that extent they have served the people.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the National War Front has got any representative on the Food Committees?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: It has been associated with many of the Food Committees.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in which district the National War Front as such was given a place in the Food Committees and by virtue of what authority?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: I want notice

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Food Committee's constitution was drawn up and sent round to the District Officers for complying with certain constitution prepared by the Government here and it does not show any place given to the war front as such?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: May be.

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: With reference to answer (*a*)(*3*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many districts and in how many cases the fifth column activities have been counteracted?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: I want notice.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the first leader of the National War Front in Bengal and how long he continued in office?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: His Excellency the Governor was the provincial leader up to January 1944.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is he a non-official?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: No; he is not.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that there is a prevailing and a very strong opinion in the country that this National War Front is a body of *johukums*, some of whom draw high salaries and eat lunches and dinners?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I disallow that question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Central Indian Legislative Assembly has passed a few days ago a resolution condemning the organisation of the National War Front and advising the Government to dissolve the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Does it arise out of the present question?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes; it does.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: As Publicity Minister you ought to know that.

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: That is a different thing. I was asking whether it arises or not. If that is so, I have read it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government of Bengal is going to respect the opinion recorded by the majority of members of the Indian Legislative Assembly to which Bengal also had its quota of representation?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: That is under the consideration of Government at the present moment.

National War Front in Murshidabad district.

*221. **Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Publicity Department be pleased to state—

(a) the personnel of the National War Front as organised and formed in the district of Murshidabad; and how and on what principles was selection of personnel made; and on what date such organisation came into being;

(b) how much money has been spent for the activities of the National War Front in the district of Murshidabad up to 31st December, 1944, and the heads and items under which such expenditure has been made;

(c) the nature and volume of activities undertaken and achieved in the said district;

(d) the nature and number of the staff, clerical and menial, appointed by and serving under the National War Front in the district, stating the communities to which each such employee belongs;

(e) the equipments with their costs and prices which have been placed at the disposal of the National War Front authorities in the said district; and

(*f*) the relation which the National War Front in the district bears to the magistracy, the police, and non-official bodies, if any?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: (*a*) Rai Bahadur Surendra Narayan Sinha and Khan Sahib Syed Sakhawat Hussain Al-Quadery are the two District Leaders. The personnel of the present District Directorate which was constituted on the 17th November, 1944, is as follows:—

President.

(1) Sahibzada Khawanjah Syed Kazem Ali Meerza, M.L.A.

Vice-Presidents.

(1) Rai Bahadur Surendra Narayan Sinha.
(2) Mr. Farhad Reza Choudhury, M.L.A.
(3) Mr. Narendra Singh Singhi, M.A., B.L.

Secretary.

(1) Khan Sahib Syed Sakhawat Hussain Al-Quadery, B.L.

Assistant Secretary.

(1) Rai Sahib N. K. Bhattacharyya.

Members.

(1) Khan Bahadur Ekramul Huq, B.L.
(2) Rai Bahadur Jnanendra Narayan Choudhury.
(3) Mr. S. N. Dutt.
(4) Mr. Tahiruddin Biswas, B.L.
(5) Mr. Abdul Malek.
(6) Mr. Z. Karim, B.A.
(7) Mr. Satyendra Nath Das, M.A., B.L.
(8) Mr. Golam Mahbub.
(9) Mr. Mohanlal Jain.
(10) Khan Sahib Shaikh Abdur Rashid.

The personnel was selected in consultation with the District Leaders with an eye to equitable representation of all interests and communities.

(*b*) The amount spent up to 31st December, 1944, is Rs.12,668. The details of the items on which the money was spent are not readily available.

(*c*) Lectures, discussions, etc., were held on an average on about 20 days in a month and about 10 kinds of printed literature, posters, etc., were distributed per month. They were on various subjects, e.g., war, social service, grow more food, need and utility of savings, removal of illiteracy, etc.

(*d*) Two District Organisers—One Hindu and one Muslim.

One office clerk—Hindu.

One office peon—Muslim.

Two Magic Lantern Carriers—One Hindu and one Muslim.

(*e*) Two Magic Lanterns and a gramophone with necessary slides and records in addition to ordinary office furniture, printed literature, posters, etc., were sent from headquarters. The total estimated cost of equipment is about Rs.2,000.

(*f*) The organisation is non-official in character and acts in co-operation with all officials and non-officials.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who made Rai Bahadur Surendra Narayan Sinha and Khan Sahib Syed Sakhawat Hussain Al-Quadery the two District Leaders?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: It was done by the then Provincial Organizer.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was the Provincial Organizer at the time when these two persons were appointed leaders?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Possibly Mr. A. B. Chatterjee.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the District Leader can hold also a post of Secretary as it is found that the same man is holding two posts here?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: That is in a different organization.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the relation between the National War Front and the Publicity Organisation of the Publicity Department of the Government of Bengal which also has a certain number of officers in the districts purporting to carry out similar objective?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: I am grateful to Dr. Sanyal for raising this question. These two Departments, as I have already told the House, are under the consideration of Government for amalgamation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any special quota of sugar and other civil supplies, particularly sugar and kerosene, is given to the members of the National War Front and, particularly, to the leaders in view of their association with the National War Front?

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: I am not aware of any such thing.

Measures for relief of pressure of work of Subdivisional Officers.

*222. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that Subdivisional Officers are overworked and that they cannot do justice to all the departments placed under their charge?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Government consider the desirability of placing supply department in the hands of an assistant director in each subdivision to relieve Subdivisional Officers for efficiency of administration?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Subdivisional Officers are overworked but so far they have managed to cope with the work entrusted to them.

(*b*) Subdivisional Controllers are being appointed to relieve Subdivisional Officers of the main burden of supply.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what are the functions of these Assistant Directors of Civil Supplies who are in subdivisional towns?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: For dealing with all civil supply matters.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: In view of the answer just now given to question (*b*), viz., "If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Government consider the desirability of placing Supply Department in the

hands of an Assistant Director" to which no answer is given, shall we take it that the answer is that the Assistant Directors of Civil Supplies who are stationed in subdivisional towns shall be in charge of the Supply Department and not the Subdivisional Officers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated in reply that Subdivisional Controllers are being appointed. Sanction has been given to the creation of 54 such posts, that is to say, Subdivisional Controllers who will be in charge of the work which was hitherto performed by the Subdivisional Officers.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House whether Government has any objection to handing over the work of the Civil Supplies Department to the Assistant Directors of Civil Supplies in subdivisions?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Assistant Directors and the Subdivisional Controllers are doing different kinds of work in subdivisions and now both of them will be doing all the civil supplies work in the subdivisions. So the Subdivisional Officers will be relieved of their duties in respect of civil supplies matters which they have been doing for the last two years.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that due to the burden or overwork imposed upon the Subdivisional Officers much of the work that the Subdivisional Officers were normally expected to do, particularly to check black-marketing and profiteering, cannot be successfully carried out?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a matter of opinion. But it is a fact that the Subdivisional Officers are over-burdened with work. That is why Government propose to relieve them of part of their work in connection with civil supplies matters

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that at least so far the work of the Subdivisional Officer has not been relieved by the addition of Civil Supplies Officer in the locality but rather increased his burden because he has to supervise the work of that officer as well?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, that is partly correct. The Subdivisional Officer has to keep personal supervision over distribution of kerosene, salt and other commodities. That is why the Subdivisional Officers are not practically relieved by the appointment of Assistant Directors of Civil Supplies, but it is hoped that with the appointment of Subdivisional Controllers the Subdivisional Officers will be greatly relieved.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government is considering the desirability of associating with the Subdivisional Officers the duly constituted Peoples' Committees, if not, the reconstituted Food Committees, to give him further relief in the matter of maintenance of and proper distribution of civil supplies?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Such committees are functioning in most of the subdivisions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that Food Committees mentioned by him were supposed to be reconstituted everywhere and the reconstitution of such Food Committees has become overdue?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware. I want notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House whether Government has any objection to putting Assistant Directors of Civil Supplies posted in subdivisional towns in absolute charge of the Civil Supplies Department?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that Government have a scheme for the appointment of Subdivisional Controllers numbering about 54.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: That is not my question. I want to know whether the Assistant Directors will be put in absolute charge of the Civil Supplies Department in subdivisions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Roy, you put the same question thrice and got the same reply.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Government has not replied to my question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot help you in that.

Increment of family allowance of Nalini Das Gupta, a security prisoner.

***223. Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether the Government are aware that the younger brother of Nalini Das Gupta of Banaripara, district Bakarganj, now a security prisoner in Dum Dum Central Jail, died last year, leaving his widow and two children entirely dependent upon Nalini Das Gupta.

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of making suitable increment of the monthly allowance of Nalini Das Gupta?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) My information is that the third brother of the security prisoner died of smallpox about a year ago.

(*b*) The family allowance of Rs 38 per mensem has already been enhanced to Rs.45 per mensem with effect from the 1st January, 1945, under the present liberal policy of Government.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the younger brother of Sj. Nalini Das Gupta was the main prop of the family?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, I am not aware. I want notice.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that by the death of his younger brother the position of Srijut Nalini Das Gupta's family has become very acute?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have just found that the family of the security prisoner consisting of 15 to 20 members including children used to be maintained by the income of his elder brother who is a Kaviraj by profession.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the villages the income of a Kaviraj is not generally more than Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per month?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know, but ordinarily the income varies according to the ability of the Kaviraj.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In view of the death of the earning member of the family, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of revising their niggardly policy and enhance the security prisoner's allowance to some extent?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The policy of Government is not at all niggardly but on the contrary it is very liberal and the allowance of the security prisoner has already been enhanced to Rs. 45 per month.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that the family of the security prisoner consists of 15 to 20 members and also in view of the fact that a Kaviraj does not earn much, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to revise this prisoner's allowance at least on compassionate grounds and enhance the family allowance so that the family can keep their body and soul together?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I may state that this prisoner was a teacher in the Banaripara National H. E. School where he was earning only Rs. 30 per month and because there was distress in the family Government on compassionate grounds sanctioned an allowance in excess of the pre-arrest income of the security prisoner.

Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee.

***224. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the personnel of the Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee including the name of the Chairman which was formed in November of 1944;

(*b*) the particulars of their pay and allowances;

(*c*) the terms of the references they are to inquire into; and

(*d*) the possible time that they are to submit their report?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): I refer the honourable member to my reply to a similar question asked by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal on the 22nd March, 1945.

Effect of control on prices of various articles.

***225. Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state how long the Government wishes to control the prices of various articles?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether there has been a general improvement of the situation recently; and

(*ii*) if so, whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of allowing free trade from 1st July, 1945?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that whenever the Government adopts a policy of control over any commodity, that commodity disappears from the market, price of which goes up and people in general are put to great difficulty?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Until the possibility returns of normal trading being resumed.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No.

(*c*) This sometimes happens.

Supply of materials and implements to weavers and artisans of Tangail.

***228. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department aware that in Tangail subdivision a large number of weavers, artisans of various nature, brass-dealers, cobblers, fishermen, utensil-makers and others are seriously suffering from the wants of yarns, tools, implements, brass, leather, hemp, etc.?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many bales of cotton yarn, hemp, bags of iron-balls, pieces of brass sheets, bags of leather, etc., have been sent to Tangail during 1943 and 1944?

(*c*) Does the Government consider the desirability of sending all such tools, implements and raw materials abundantly for free distribution and sales also at cheap price immediately?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. K. Shahabuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) The following articles have been supplied by the Director of Industries to the Tangail subdivision up to date under the Rehabilitation Scheme:—

Cotton yarn—128 bales of the value of Rs.73,757.

Iron and Steel—Half a ton of the value of Rs.200.

Tin and Zinc—of the value of Rs.4,458.

Sole leather, uppers and cobblers' implements—of the value of Rs.2,608.

The Civil Supplies Department is now in charge of supply of yarn to the weavers.

A further quantity of half a ton of brass sheets has been allotted to the subdivision and is awaiting wagon priority for despatch.

In addition to the above, the following articles have been supplied by the Director of Industries to the District Magistrate of Mymensingh:—

Brass sheets—2 tons and 13 cwt. of the value of Rs.4,832.

Artisans' tools and implements—of the value of Rs.1,316.

Leather and cobblers' implements—of the value of Rs.3,058.

Other Miscellaneous goods—of the value of Rs.5,019.

It is expected that the Tangail subdivision has received its due quota from the above supplies.

The above supplies have been made after due consideration of the requirements of other places and of the materials available for the purpose.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that 5,000 looms work with fine yarn in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I have no information.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House whether he knows how many bales of fine yarn have been sent to Tangail?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I cannot answer that question off-hand. I would ask for notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, my submission is that this question may be held over. Let the Hon'ble Minister answer this question. The supply of yarn is very scanty and weavers and artisans are dying there.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You had better put the question and let him answer.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the acute shortage of cloth, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to collect statistics in regard to handlooms there and supply adequate yarn so that these handlooms lying idle may be utilised to give relief to people now suffering from scarcity of cloth?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: That question depends on the procurement of yarns which is under the Civil Supplies Department.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has made any survey of the weavers and other artisans of this subdivision?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Yes, there is a survey of the number of weavers.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: What is the number of weavers?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I ask for notice.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: On what basis the allotment of these things has been made?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: The answer is there that the above supplies have been made after due consideration of the requirements of other places and of the materials available for the purpose.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to the answer just now given by the Parliamentary Secretary that this matter is being dealt with by the Civil Supplies Department and not by the Department of Industries, I suggest that the question be sent to the Civil Supplies Department for answer because the Parliamentary Secretary says that it is not within his jurisdiction.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry I cannot help you in this matter.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which department supplies yarns, the Industries Department or the Civil Supplies Department?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: It is in charge of the Civil Supplies Department.

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what condition these materials were supplied to the weavers by the Civil Supplies Department?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I ask for notice.

Alleged delay in disposal of cases by Sadar Subdivisional Officer, Dinajpur.

***227. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there are hours fixed in the High Court Circular Order for sitting of Criminal Courts for the disposal of judicial matters?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the hours;

(*ii*) whether the Criminal Courts including the Subdivisional Officers in the district of Dinajpur sit according to the hours fixed;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that the Sadar Subdivisional Officer of Dinajpur has no fixed hours for sitting for disposal of judicial matters and the litigant public and the lawyers have to suffer much hardship and inconvenience for this;

(iv) whether it is a fact that the Sadar Subdivisional Officer cannot take up and hear cases both criminal and debt settlement appeals and these cases are adjourned very often to the immense hardship on the parties and lawyers; and

(v) whether it is a fact that the litigants and lawyers are kept waiting indefinitely while the Sadar Subdivisional Officer remains in his chamber for hours together?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what remedy the Hon'ble Minister proposes to apply for removal of the hardship and inconveniences of the litigant public and lawyers?

(d) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Sadar Subdivisional Officer has not disposed of applications regarding House Rent Control Order within the time prescribed by the rules?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID (on behalf of the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (a) and (b) (ii) Yes.

(b) (i) 11 a.m to 5 p.m.

(iii) and (v) No.

(iv) It is not a fact that the Subdivisional Officer cannot take up criminal and debt settlement appeals. Adjournments are not frequent. So question of immense hardship on the parties and lawyers does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No. Most of the cases have been disposed of within the time.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (d) that most of the cases have been disposed of within time, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action Government propose to take in the cases where the cases have not been disposed of within the mandatory provisions laid down in the statute?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I suppose the cases have been disposed of within the specified time and the other cases which have not yet been disposed of will be disposed of within the time.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who furnished all this information to this question?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Strictly speaking, this question does not arise. The information comes through the proper channel.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, all these questions were raised on the complaints against the Subdivisional Officer for not sitting in time as prescribed by the High Court but Government say that the Subdivisional Officer sits according to the time circularised and therefore I want to know the source from which the replies came.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot sit upon judgment on the merits of the replies given.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that the Subdivisional Officer has been hobnobbing with the Hon'ble Minister to save himself?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: That may be within the knowledge of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta but it is not within my knowledge.

Exclusion of some Banks from operation of Bengal Money Lenders Act, 1940.

***228. Mr. I. D. JALAN:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether any steps have been

taken by the Government under section 3 of the Bengal Money Lenders Act (Act X of 1940) to prescribe conditions compliance whereof is necessary for declaring a bank as a Notified Bank?

(*b*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to when Government intends to place the same before the Provincial Legislature?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that very big banks like Hindusthan Commercial Bank, Limited, Hindusthan Mercantile Bank, Limited, etc., having paid-up capital of over Rs.50 lakhs each and which are Scheduled Banks are to be called upon by the Government to comply with the Bengal Money Lenders Act?

(*e*) Do the Government consider the desirability of excluding such banks from the operation of the Bengal Money Lenders Act until the Rules are framed?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID (on behalf of the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Yes, draft rules are under preparation.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) The rules will be placed before the House as early as possible.

(*d*) Yes, so long as any bank is not declared as a "Notified Bank", it will be called upon to comply with the provisions of the Bengal Money Lenders Act, 1940, provided it was not scheduled under section 2(*c*) of the Reserve Bank of India Act (II of 1934) before the 1st January, 1939.

(*e*) No.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the rules were not prepared so long?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I ask for notice.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: When can we expect that the rules will be placed before this House?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: It is not possible to say that.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state at what stage of preparation the rules are at present?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: The rules have almost been prepared and it is expected that they will be completed very soon.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is preparing the rules?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: There are departmental experts who are preparing the rules.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the rules are likely to be placed before this House during this session?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I do not think it will be possible to place the rules before the House during the present session, but I hope they will be placed before the House during the next session.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that at the instance of the Government of Bengal in the Judicial Department a committee actually sat for a number of days and drafted a set of rules after going through the recommendations of the Reserve Bank and other experts in the Banking line?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: That may be so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state at what stage those rules at the present moment are?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I have already answered that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has actually got the same committee continuing to function or has dissolve that committee?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I think the committee has now become *functus officio* because there is no work for the committee.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the recommendations made by the committee have been drafted and placed before the Government at any stage?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I think so. The recommendations are being considered.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When were those recommendations obtained by the Government?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I have no information about that, but I can get the information

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that great hardship is being experienced by a large number of Bengali-managed Banks as a result of the delay on the part of Government to formulate the rules?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I am not aware and I do not think that there has been any representation made by any Bank to Government.

Extension of service granted to the staff of High Court, Appellate Side.

*229. **Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of gazetted officers, non-gazetted officers drawing higher grade of pay and clerks of the lower grade in the High Court Appellate Side, for the last 3 years, who have been granted extension of service in their respective posts;

(*ii*) number of extensions granted to each of them; and

(*iii*) whether any differential treatment has been made between an experienced gazetted officer and an experienced non-gazetted officer or clerk in the matter of granting such extensions?

(*b*) If the answer to (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID (on behalf of the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): By the courtesy of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice I am able to reply as follows:—

(*a*) (*i*) A gazetted officer has been given an extension of service. No extension has been granted to non-gazetted officers drawing higher grade pay or to clerks of the lower grade.

(*ii*) One.

(*iii*) No. In each case, the interests of the public service are the only consideration.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Influx of evacuees in Jessore.

*230. **Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Defence Department aware—

(*i*) that a large number of people have taken shelter in the town of Jessore to save themselves from enemy air raids;

(*ii*) that influx of a large number of people has affected the sanitary conditions of the town; and

(*iii*) that cholera has broken out in the town and its neighbourhood?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) (*ii*) and (*iii*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government contemplate to take to prevent the epidemic?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*)(*i*) Yes, there was an influx of people in 1942 but most of them have since left the town.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Government have no such information.

(*b*) Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Release of Miss Kiron Chakravarti, a security prisoner, on medical grounds.

70. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Miss Kiron Chakravarti, a security prisoner in the Dinajpur Jail, is a suspected tuberculosis patient;

(*b*) what was her maximum weight in jail and weight on admission;

(*c*) what is her present weight;

(*d*) what are her clinical symptoms;

(*e*) what is the diagnosis of the Jail Superintendent who is also the Civil Surgeon;

(*f*) whether the Jail Superintendent recommended for her treatment and examination by expert; if so, when;

(*g*) whether she has been examined by any expert; if not, why not; and

(*h*) whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of releasing her on grounds of health?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) No.

(*b*) 98 lbs.

(*c*) 88 lbs.

(*d*) to (*g*) Her chief complaints related to intestinal trouble, pain in the abdomen and constipation. She was examined by the visiting Specialist on the 24th February, 1945, and it was diagnosed to be a case of chronic amœbiasis. She is being given proper medicinal and dietetic treatment in the Presidency Jail as recommended by the Specialist.

(*h*) No.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the actual diagnosis that was made by the Jail superintendent who was the Civil Surgeon?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: She was examined by the Physician Specialist.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I am referring to the diagnosis made by the Jail Superintendent who was the Civil Surgeon?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have not got that diagnosis with me now.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the date when she was recommended for transfer for examination by experts by the Superintendent of Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have not got the papers.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will it be possible for the Hon'ble Minister to enlighten us after how many months or days she was transferred to the Presidency Jail after the Superintendent had recommended for such transfer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: As I have said I have not got the date when the Superintendent recommended the transfer, but I can say that the Government order sanctioning her transfer was issued on the 30th January.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In view of the present state of health of Miss Kiron Chakravarti, will Government consider the desirability of releasing her forthwith?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I would refer the honourable member to my reply to (*h*).

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: What are the specialists and who are the specialists who examined Miss Chakravarti?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: She was examined by a Physician Specialist Dr. Wahed.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the answer "Physician Specialist" is a misnomer? I want to know whether the specialist was a heart specialist, a lungs specialist or an intestinal specialist?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say what kind of specialist he was but he was considered to be a specialist.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In view of the suggestion made in the question that the case may be one of tuberculosis, will Government consider the desirability of allowing Miss Kiron Chakravarti to get herself examined by a medical expert of her own choice?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government can, if the honourable member so desires, get her examined by a tuberculosis specialist.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Of her own choice?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No.

Chaukidary Reward and Equipment Fund for 24-Parganas.

71. Khan Bahadur JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present amount of surplus accumulation in Chaukidari Reward and Equipment Fund or Funds in the district of 24-Parganas; and

(*b*) whether the Government proposes to utilise the fund in paying contribution to the Union Boards towards the maintenance of their chaukidars and dafadars in order to give partial effect to the recommendations of the Chaukidary Enquiry Committee and the suggestion made in the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Nil.

(*b*) No.

Want of latrines and urinals in Civil Courts, Sadar, Dinajpur.

72. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there are no latrines and urinals for the use of the ministerial staff of the Civil Courts, Sadar, of the Dinajpur district?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of erecting latrines and urinals for the convenience of the staff?

Minister in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Rise in the price of rice in Chittagong.

73. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the price of different qualities of rice has been rising abnormally by leaps and bounds in the district of Chittagong?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps do the Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) The position in June, 1943, was as follows:—

The price of rice is showing tendency to rise.

(*b*) Before the question was asked Government had already despatched substantial quantities of rice and other foodgrains to Chittagong and have arranged to send a minimum of 200,000 maunds of rice paddy to that district each month; it is expected that a further quantity of 100,000 maunds of rice will move to Chittagong each month. In addition to rice, Chittagong will receive 100,000 maunds of *atta* each month.

Message from the Bengal Legislative Council.

Secretary then read the following message received from the Bengal Legislative Council:

"That the concurrence of the Bengal Legislative Assembly be asked to the Bengal Suppression of Immoral Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 1945, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 2nd March, 1945."

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the War, 1939.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 22,74,68,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today I again request the Whips of different parties to allocate the time-limit of speeches by different movers of different motions. In case I do not get any assistance from the Whips of different parties, I will follow the rules strictly, that is, each speaker will get 15 minutes. If these can be covered within the time, so much the better; if not, I propose to adjourn the House punctually at 8 p.m.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, it is not possible. We have begun at 4-45 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If it is the desire of the House to sit longer, I have no objection, but I would request the Whips of different parties to adjust the time and allocate time-limit to different speakers.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the mismanagement, bungling, corruption in the department and lack of control and supervision over the department.

Sir, under this head we are concerned with large-scale trading transactions undertaken by Government. This is a department started for the improvement of supply of food-stuff and improvement of the food situation, for ensuring an adequate supply of cloth, specially standard cloth, purchase of salt, sugar, etc., and construction of country boats for improvement of transportation.

Sir, there has been a serious problem involved in regard to these schemes and trading transactions. The problem is not whether there is corruption in the department or not. All sections of the members in this House have unanimously admitted that and are quite conscious of that Even the Hon'ble Minister is aware of it. Opinions differ only about the degree. The problem of all problems is therefore how to get rid of it. Mr. Gladding made valuable suggestions from his long and varied experiences. We are all one with him. Yes, drastic measures with strong hands are what are needed. They brook no further delay. If there is strong will to do away with it, it cannot exist even for one second after this strong will has been exhibited It is this will that is wanting. We are, therefore, inclined to remark that the man who can drive away the evil genius is himself possessed of it

"যে সরিষাতে ভূত ছাড়াবে সেই সরিষাতেই ভূত।"

Sir, the existence of corruption pre-supposes the existence of mismanagement, bungling and of lack of control and supervision.

Sir, the next questin is wherein lies the remedy. The Hon'ble Minister suggested expansion of the department and equipment of it with more hands. That will not do. The department has constantly been expanded and along with it corruption and jobbery. You are to go to the very root. I also feel that the man at the top has no sympathy for the people whose servant he is. He has not in him the spirit of service. Can you rouse that spirit in reality? As at once you have done it you have done 90 per cent. of your work. There is another feeling amongst the rank and file in the office. They feel that they can overlook the cause of the public with impunity, they are as if entitled to bungle and mismanage and to accept bribe as they are assured that there is none to detect and check them, none to take them to task and none to remove them from their posts. Why this feeling one may pertinently question. There is only one reply. These men in rank and file think and are constantly encouraged to think that their superiors up to the highest are corrupt and inefficient. Will you remove

this feeling? Public have not also been taken into confidence as much as they ought to have been. The Hon'ble Minister was telling us yesternight that representative Food Committees are functioning in the matter of civil supplies. I say an emphatic no to it. In Dinajpur, the District or the Town Food Committee, as you may call it, is somewhat representative in character but I regret to say that the Government officers of the Civil Supply Department do not act according to their advice, demands or suggestion. They do not care to reply to the letters addressed to them by the Food Committee. Some responsible members and Congressmen have resigned in disgust. As regards formation of the Food Committees in the villages and unions the less said the better. They are creatures of the Circle Officers. Independent members of repute and with recognised public service at their credit are avoided as much as possible. Members agreeing to ditto the Circle Officers are taken in. Protests are entered before the District Magistrate and Sadar Subdivisional Officers but to little or no effect.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Are you not in the Committee *ex-officio*?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You are not a creature of the Circle Officer?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: No. I am referring to Village Committees and not the Town Committee. Will you please listen to me.

As I was saying, Sir, protests were entered before the District Magistrate and Sadar Subdivisional Officer but to little or no effect. Are you prepared to hold enquiries in our presence? You have to go into the very roots, I say again, if you desire to free the system from corruption. In selecting dealers no principle or policy is followed. Favourites and black-marketeers are always given preference, probably because they contributed towards the Indian Red Cross Society's fund or towards the funds for reception of the Hon'ble Ministers or are always ready at the beck and call of the executive or police officials in the districts. In my lengthy statement published in almost all the important dailies on the 9th and 10th November I mentioned that licences, permits for sale of kerosene were allowed to be continued in cases of persons convicted for black-marketing, but old and honest dealers were refused licences and permits. I can cite numerous instances only if you will provide relief. One dealer has been hauled up in a case under Defence of India Rules in Thakurgaon for nothing. There is no case against him and therefore the hearing of the case is being adjourned from month to month for about six months or more but others in the same subdivision are allowed free hands to do as they like. Former's licence and permit have been discontinued though it is apparent that he will be acquitted. Authorities have been moved but with no result. Do you expect that honest dealing will be encouraged after this? The *chaprashi* of the Subdivisional Officer of Balurghat will go free though caught red-handed in black-marketing a tin of kerosene only because the Subdivisinoal Officer had something to do in his selection. In giving licence or permits in the Dinajpur town for hardwares, the claims of old dealers of 30 years standing or more have been altogether ignored though I personally brought it to the notice of the Director of Consumers Goods. Much talked of communal ratio has also been ignored. Licences for textile dealers are refused in one case on the ground that either he is a new dealer or did not apply in time but granted to others though they belong to the same category. Textile Controller Mr. T. Jones refused supply of clothes to some dealers of Dinajpur though they came with recommendations from the Subdivisional Officer, Sadar, but supplied to others who came even without his nomination. There is an instance where a person belonging to

the latter category instead of taking the cloths to Dinajpur sold them here in Calcutta. Some dealers were given mainly coarse cloths and others mainly fine. These are matters of records and can be found out on reference to records in the Textile Controller's office and in the railway department. One Nizamuddin Mian of Dinajpur who never dealt in cloth was given the entire stock of standard cloth worth about one and half lakhs to be kept in his own godown without taking any security from him though there were many rich and old cloth dealers in the town of Dinajpur. Dealers were asked to deposit money with him and to take delivery of standard cloth from him. Thus he was allowed practically to deal with Rs. 3 lakhs with great risk. Previous to this stock remained in the Government custody and dealers used to deposit money in Government Treasury. Why this risky arrangement if the authorities were not interested personally? I put a question in this connection which was received at the Hon'ble Speaker's department on 6th November, 1944, and despatched to the Administrative Department on 9th November, 1944, but remains unreplied yet. Do you expect that matters will mend if you encourage this kind of jobbery? I shall read the relevant portion from two letters and you will see how the Government are managing affairs. I am reading a letter from Maulvi Anisuddin Ahmed, President, Bansuria Union Board No. 6, written to me from Gangarampore. This is dated 16th March, 1945.

"আর একটি বিশেষ জরুরি বিষয় আপনাকে জানাচ্ছি। আমাদের দিনাজপুর জেলায় কাপড় বলিতে আর নাই। হ্যাণ্ডার্ড কাপড়ও পাওয়া যায় না। পরনের কাপড় তো পাওয়া যায় না কোন লোক মারা গেলে তাহার শেষ বস্ত্র কফনের কাপড় ও পাওয়া যায় না। ইহার কোন ব্যবস্থা থাকিলে দয়া করিয়া করিবেন। নিবেদন ইতি"

Then there is another letter written by Mr. Kedar Nath Bhattacharjya of Satsang, Dinajpur branch. This is dated 10th March, 1945. It runs thus: "During my tours throughout this district I find that acute cloth scarcity is prevailing everywhere. Not a single piece of *dhoti* or *sari* can be procured from the market. Ladies of poor families both Hindus and Mohamadans are suffering much for want of cloths". Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in his statement yesterday said that this cloth famine has been aggravated by panic. He says: "I know that there is very grave shortage and I know that cloth is not only scarce in some places but is absent from the market".

If his statement is true how can he justify his statement that panic has been created by representing incorrectly the situation as even worse than it is. There is therefore no sense in his deprecating this alleged attempt. Panic is natural outcome of actual state of affairs. No one can avoid it by deprecating this unless one goes to the root and eradicates the cause. By driving out panic you cannot really drive out the shortage. Drive out the cause and you will drive out not only the panic but also the shortage.

Just in this way the Hon'ble Minister tried to evade real issues here last year when the grim food famine overtook the country. They are always notorious in underestimating things and become wiser after the fair. This proves want of their foresight and forethought. When people began to die in lakhs, they woke up but their belated efforts did not bear much fruit. Now the Minister says "We cannot set up right overnight the Enforcement Department". Why did you not foresee things and begin earlier? These are lame excuses. Don't you, please repeat the same mistake in respect of cloth famine as you did in case of food famine. We do not find any allotment this year for purchase of salt under this head. Suffice it to say that salt allotments in the districts are made greater and that you have not allotted quota for cattle. Government purchase salt at Rs. 10 and sell at Rs. 12 per bag. So they are making profit though they complain of loss under this head. In Dinajpur there were monopoly systems introduced by appointing one Chief Agent Messrs. Kasem Ismail and the trouble began. Good sense then prevailed, and this system of monopoly had discontinued.

Then again in Dinajpur persons who were never in the salt, sugar or kerosene trade have been selected as approved dealers. They were either zemindars or service-holders or druggists by profession. The allotment of kerosene, sugar, sugarcandy and coal is quite insufficient and requires thorough revision. While high Government officials are burning hazacks in their homes the poor civil citizens cannot burn even a primitive lamp (কুপি) While the Government officials get 10 or 15 maunds of coal per month the civil population scarcely get one maund per month. Permits preserved with the dealers will corroborate my statement. This is no fair-play and honesty and efficient management.

I shall now deal with paddy and rice procurement scheme of Government. Yesterday, my friend Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri enquired about the reason for the loss of 22 crores of rupees. Sir, the loss has been shown for the year 1943-44 as 3 crores 55 lakhs, for the year 1944-45 as 13 crores 39 lakhs and for 1945-46 as 5 crores 53 lakhs. No loss has been shown either due to deterioration or depreciation in value or due to theft during transit as was said by the Hon'ble Minister last night. According to accounts in the Budget therefore it would be taken that there was no loss due to those causes.

Under the head "Capital Outlay" there are many important schemes which will never bear fruits. Huge figures of loss calls for serious thought. Apparently the Government should have made huge profits instead. And actually the small province of Sind has shown a net profit of four crores in two years and the plea of war conditions is belied by the state of affairs in Assam. Unless there has been corruption of a serious magnitude in the trading venture of the Bengal Government the losses are unaccountable. Only the rice deal of the Government will show how the Government has bungled with trade.

During the year 1944 the Government had purchased about 50 lakh maunds of rice at Dinajpur alone at an average price of Rs. 11-8 per maund, delivered free at station. This rice was sold by Government at Rs. 15 to Rs. 16 per maund. After making all possible allowances for mishandling and freight this should have yielded a minimum profit of about 2 crores of rupees.

The Chief Agents have always been purchasing at a price far below the ceiling price declared for each area by the Government. The Chief Agents did not pay the mills and traders even the contracted price and deducted arbitrary discount up to 12 annas per maund on the imaginary plea of rice being below the standard though no standard has been defined by the Government. The Government of Bengal did not declare any reduction in ceiling price in December, 1944, but the Chief Agents suddenly reduced their purchase price for milled medium rice to Rs. 9-8 per maund. The price of milled medium rice at Rs. 9-8 was uneconomic and without parity with the price of paddy. The Rice Mills Industry had prayed to the Government to immediately revise the price to economic level. But Messrs. Ispahani & Co., Chief Agents, coerced and intimidated some rice mills at Hili to sell rice at the rate of Rs. 9-8 per maund in order to prove its merit to the Government. Not being content with this the Government resorted to Bengal Rice Mills Control Order, 1943, and served compulsory sale order on the rice mills to at once deliver to the Chief Agents the entire stock of milled medium rice at the rate of Rs. 9-8 and coarse at Rs. 9 per maund, as on the 10th February, 1945. The mills were also ordered to deliver the entire stock of paddy including boiled paddy, steeped paddy, half-dried paddy, free from dust, stone, bricks, empty husk and any other foreign material, *i.e.*, paddy in the preparatory stage of rice at the rate of Rs. 5-8 per maund. The Chief Agents were ordered to dry for themselves the half-dried and steeped paddy and take delivery at once. It is more

than five weeks that the Chief Agents have not taken full delivery of stocks nor paid the price thereof in spite of Government instructions to take delivery at once.

Sir, there have been complaints regarding bad storage arrangements. Due to defective storage there has been deterioration in the quality and consequently in the price. Sir, the Chief Agents purchased paddy and rice at a price which is absolutely uneconomic. I want to know why Government do take the risk of loss due to deterioration and loss on account of unsatisfactory storage arrangements.

The Chief Agents secured about 6 lakh maunds of rice, bagged, sewn and delivered at station or Chief Agents' godown at the rate of Rs. 9-8 per maund. The Chief Agents deducted discount even on this rice on the ground that quality is not up to the standard while no standard of quality has been declared by Government in spite of repeated requests. This forcible purchase of rice and arbitrary discount will yield a profit of even a quarter crore of rupees.

Messrs. Ispahani and Co. have monopolised the entire trade of the country and are controlling the trade to serve no ends of the public and to patronize a few persons. The rice deal for only one district has yielded to the Government at least 2·30 lakhs of rupees.

Messrs. Ispahani & Co. and other Chief Agents have been given all the protection and benefit of monopoly trade and earning lakhs of rupees as commission and handling charges, and crores as private profit for fictitious business conducted by them, without being responsible in any way for the quality and storage of rice. If the entire rice deal of Bengal Government is examined in critical light the public will surely be astounded at the organized and deep laid fraud and deception practised on it in the name of war and emergency conditions by the Civil Supplies Department. If a Royal Commission is appointed to enquire into the trading accounts of the Government of Bengal the naked truth will come to light.

There is no denying the fact that due to defective despatch, and absence of equitable distribution and unsatisfactory storage arrangements there has been huge loss on the part of Government. They have for nothing taken the risk and they have for nothing lost good public money and they therefore deserve the severest condemnation.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED BOKAINAGARI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy regarding the construction of boats.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to give supply of cloth to the people and yarn to the weavers and thread to the fishermen and the situation arising out of the paucity of the same.

মাননীয় সহ-সভাপতি সাহেব, আমার নামে যে দুইটী motion listএ আছে সেগুলি আমি এক সঙ্গে উত্থাপন করছি। একটা হোলো ঐ নৌকা পুনর্গঠন সম্বন্ধে আর একটা হোলো কাপড় এবং তাঁতীদের সূতা Government supply করতে পারছেন না সে সম্বন্ধে।

মাননীয় সহ-সভাপতি মহোদয়, যখন এই বাংলার দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব কোণ দিয়ে জাপান এসে দেখা দিল তখন এই Governmentএর—বাংলা Governmentএর—বুদ্ধি হোলো যে বাংলাদেশের যত নৌকা আছে সব নিয়ে একত্র করে ভেঙ্গে চুরমার করে দাও; যেহেতু জাপানীরা এসে এই নৌকা ব্যবহার করে এই British Governmentকে ঠাঙাবে। সেই জন্য এই নৌকাগুলি নষ্ট করে দাও। কিন্তু তাঁরা চিন্তা করে দেখেন নাই যে সেই British Governmentএর ভয় থেকে, ভারত Governmentএর হুকুমে এই কাজ করা

হয়েছিল এবং তারা চিন্তা করে দেখেন নাই যে তারা আকাশে উড়ে আসতে পারে। আকাশপথ বন্ধ করার কোন সুবিধা না করে তাঁরা এই নৌকাগুলি ভেঙ্গে দেবার ব্যবস্থা করেন। এবং সেই নৌকা পুনরায় এখন তৈরী করার জন্য দেখা যাচ্ছে যে ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সালে ২,৩৭,৭৫,০০০, এবং বর্তমান budgetএ ৫,৪৮,৮১,০০০৲ গতে ২ বৎসরে ৭,৮৬,৬৬,০০০৲ আবার এই নৌকা তৈরীর কাযে ব্যয় হবে। কিন্তু এই যে নৌকা তৈরী হচ্ছে এগুলি কিভাবে হচ্ছে? যাদের এই contract দেওয়া হচ্চে, এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর সমর্থক দলের মধ্যে যাদের এই contract দেওয়া হচ্চে তাঁরা সবাই এই নৌকা তৈরি করছেন বর্তমানে কি সব কাঠ দিয়ে? আম, জাম, শিমুল ইত্যাদি কাঠ, যার নৌকা ৬ মাস এক বছরের মধ্যে শেষ হয়ে যাবে। এই ভাবে টাকাগুলি অপব্যয় করা হচ্ছে। আর এই কাপড়ের সূতা, তাঁতীদের সূতা, জেলেদের সূতা সম্বন্ধে যখন বলতে যাবো তখন দেখা যাচ্ছে যে এই যে কাপড়ের দুর্ভিক্ষ উপস্থিত হয়েছে, বাংলার তাঁতীরা সূতা পাচ্ছে না। না পাওয়ার দরুণ তাঁতীদের কি দুরবস্থা হয়েছে, জেলেদের কি দুরবস্থা হয়েছে? কাপড়ের অভাবে বাংলার লক্ষ লক্ষ নরনারী উলঙ্গ হয়ে পড়েছে এবং বহু যায়গা থেকে খবর আসছে যে বহু লোক আত্মহত্যা করছে এবং মৃত ব্যক্তিকে কাফন দেওয়ার জন্যও কাপড় পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না। এই সঙ্গে আমি আমার মৈমনসিংএর খবর বলতে পারি। মৈমনসিংএর Town Food Committee'র তরফ থেকে একটা চিঠি এসেছে যে Food Committee'র chairman হ'লো মৈমনসিং জেলার জজ সাহেব। সেখান থেকে জানানো হয়েছে যে মৈমনসিং এ মোটেই কাপড় পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না এবং কাপড়ের জন্য মানুষ গ্রামে গ্রামে বাজারে বাজারে ঘুরে সেখানে ছোটাছুটি করেও একটা কাপড় যোগাড় করতে পারছে না। এদিকে আমরা দেখতে পাই যে ভারত Government থেকে বহু কাপড় বাংলা Governmentএর হাতে দেওয়া হয়েছে। অথচ এই সকল কাপড় কোথায় চলে যাচ্ছে তার কোন খোঁজ-খবর পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে এই বাংলা Government, এই বাংলার কাপড়, বাংলায় উৎপাদিত কাপড় এবং ভারত Government থেকে যে সমস্ত কাপড় পাওয়া গিয়েছে সেই সমস্ত কাপড় ঐ চোরাবাজারীদের সঙ্গে একযোগে বাংলার বাহিরে চালান দিয়েছেন এবং তার থেকে বহু টাকা লাভ করেছেন কিনা। এবং এই যে কাপড়ের দুরবস্থা সৃষ্টি হয়েছে এ এই বর্তমান Government ইচ্ছা করেই সৃষ্টি করেছে। তার কারণ হচ্ছে, তাদের ইচ্ছা, এটা; বাংলায় কাপড়ের দুর্ভিক্ষ সৃষ্টি করে আবার বিলাতী কাপড় এদেশে আমদানী করার একটা সুযোগ তাঁরা নিচ্ছেন। এবং এই যে কাপড় ইত্যাদি জিনিষ কোথায় চলে যাচ্ছে, তাঁরা খুঁজে পাচ্ছেন না। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই বাংলাদেশের কোন পল্লীগ্রামে কারও রান্নাঘরের কাছে যদি একটা কোন গাঁজার গাছ থাকে সেটা তাঁরা খুঁজে বের করতে পারেন এবং একখানা note কেউ লুকিয়ে তৈরী করলে কি না করলে সে তাঁরা খোঁজ করতে পারেন আর এই লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার কাপড় কোথায় চলে গেল তা তাঁরা খোঁজ করতে পারছেন না? দৃষ্টান্ত স্বরূপ বলতে পারি, একটা ফকীর ভিক্ষা করতে গিয়ে ছিল গ্রামে কুকুর সঙ্গে করে। গ্রামের লোক জিজ্ঞাসা করেছিল যে ফকীর তোমার কুকুরের দ্বারা কি কায হয়? সে উত্তর করেছিল যে বাঘ মারতে পারে। তখন বলেছিল যে এই যে বাঘের এত উৎপাৎ কুকুর খেয়ে ঘুমুচ্ছে, মারছে নাত? ফকীর বললে ইচ্ছা করলেই মারতে পারে। আর আমাদের মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর অবস্থাও তাই হয়েছে; তাঁরা ইচ্ছা করলেই এই সব চুরী-চামারী ধরতে পারেন এবং ইচ্ছা করলেই বন্ধ করতে পারেন, কিন্তু তাঁরা খেয়ে শুধু ঘুমাচ্ছেন আর মোটা-তাজা হচ্ছেন। ইচ্ছা করছেন না, কোন কায হচ্ছে না। মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, এই যে দুরবস্থা, এই দুরবস্থার কথা যখনই আমরা বলবো হয়ত মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বলে উঠবেন যে না বাংলায় বেশী লোক উলঙ্গ থাকে নাই, বাংলায় বেশী লোক কাপড়ের অভাবে আত্মহত্যা করে নাই। কালকে এই মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বলেছিলেন যে যখন সারা দুনিয়া অভিযোগ করছে যে বাংলা দেশে গত দুর্ভিক্ষের সময় না খেয়ে ৫০ লক্ষ লোক মারা গিয়েছে, তিনি, মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, বললেন পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ মরেনি, মাত্র সাত লক্ষ মরেছে। আমি বলতে চাই যদি তাঁরই কথা সত্য হয়, তাঁর ত গায়ে বাজে না যে সাত লক্ষ মরেছে, আমি বলতে চাই কোন স্বাধীন দেশে সাত লক্ষ কেন সাতটি লোক যদি মারা যেতো, এই British সাম্রাজ্যের বিলাতে যদি একটিমাত্র লোক না খেয়ে মারা যেতো তাহলে সে দেশের লোক, সে দেশের জনসাধারণ মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীকে, মন্ত্রীসভাকে, গলার ন্যাকড়া ধরে মন্ত্রিত্বের গদী থেকে বের করে রাস্তায় নিয়ে টেনে হিঁচড়ে নামাতো। (Hear, hear) আজ আমরা পরাধীন দেশের লোক, বাংলার জনসাধারণদের ধোকা দিয়ে যাওয়া হচ্চে। আমি জানিয়ে দিচ্চি অদূর ভবিষ্যতে বাংলার জন-সাধারণ এর প্রতিশোধ নেবে, মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর গলার ন্যাকড়া ধরে টেনে গদী থেকে নামিয়ে, রাস্তায় নিয়ে ফেলে দিবে। এই কয়টি কথা বলে আমার প্রস্তাব আমি উত্থাপন করছি।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (i) Government's Grain Purchase Scheme, (ii) the

scheme for the purchase and distribution of standard cloth, (iii) salt-purchase policy, and (iv) other miscellaneous schemes for the maintenance of Civil Supplies and consumers' goods.

Sir, I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital Outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of boat construction and corruption and wastefulness involved in the method pursued.

Sir, I realise that with the present Government at least much ice cannot be cut by multiplying instances after instances of jobbery, corruption and the like, and therefore this evening I propose to go on on an entirely different strain to examine how far the sheer loss involved in the transactions arranged by the Government, which ultimately must rebound on the people and on the poor agriculturists of the land, might move the present Government yet to go on right lines.

In regard to the Grain Purchase Scheme, as you are aware, Sir, the Government have even now been following that policy of experiment and examination, that policy of hesitation and patronage which has led to the serious debacle of 1943-44. It was our privilege at that time to point out that the manner in which the Government plunged into large scale trading arrangements without proper regard for principles of trading and examination of the goods at the time when they were purchased and through the appointment of a limited number—some time only one and some time a few more of agents on behalf of the Government has had serious and disastrous results. I feel that even now Government have time to examine how far their present Grain Purchase Policy could be revised. There was a time when Government took up the plea that they had not got the staff sufficient or experienced enough to undertake large scale purchases of the character involved. But, Sir, surely the Bengal Government at the present moment cannot take up that plea because they have now got an elaborate machinery throughout Bengal of Civil Supplies officers who, I am sure, have acquired sufficient experience by this time to eliminate the appointment of agents and sub-agents, big and monopolistic, to arrange acquisition and procurement of supplies. I would, therefore, first expect the Government to re-examine their policy of grain purchase and see if at the present stage they could not undertake direct purchase as was originally intended even when the 1944 Grain Purchase Policy was announced. Government know to their cost, and the people of Bengal have had to bear the severe burden of the same, the folly of the policy pursued in the earlier stages when the Government appointed a number of agents on their behalf and on very inadequate data Government had to make large payments against bought notes. If the Government undertake purchases direct, I am sure such losses will, if not be eliminated completely, at least be largely reduced.

In regard to the scheme for the purchase of standard cloth and its distribution, we would like the Hon'ble Minister yet to take our counsel and arrange the purchase through some handling agent or agency that will be prepared to accept a very much lower commission than what is now provided for. I am aware, and even the Hon'ble Minister in charge is aware, at the time when this purchase was handed over to one firm, or two firms rather, there were capable Bengalee merchants of reputation prepared to undertake the work at almost half the commission that was offered by the rich Marwari who ultimately got the patronage of the Government of Bengal in this respect. It is now, I believe, quite clear like daylight to the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy how under the patronage of Government that Marwari gentleman or few gentlemen have prospered during the last two years, and he must have got reports of free black-marketing and other malpractices indulged in by that gentleman and his associates.

Coming now to the distribution of that standard cloth I know how even at the present moment various kinds of malpractices are being indulged in under the very nose of the Provincial Textile Controller, and if Government would care only to enquire how during the last few months permits had been issued to Marwaris of Burra Bazar and others including Muslims of 200, 300, 400, 500 bales at a time being granted to them almost free of any control thereafter, he would find out how these systems of releases have operated. I would give him only one instance.

There is a firm of the name of Sriram Arjundas and associated with this firm are three or four other firms of similar names like Sriram Jhabarmull, Sriram Nandram, and so on, who have been notorious in this trade of black-marketing. This firm was actually called to the office of the Textile Controller with a warning that its licenses would be cancelled and who actually had a black-marketing case against them pending at a time, but lo and behold! when they come out of that Textile Controller's office they manage to get not only the license freed but also 1,500 bales of standard cloth allotted to them, and out of those 1,500 standard cloth bales again a certain number of bales were permitted to be exported to Tibet. Under whose instructions and authority such things are permitted I would request the Hon'ble Minister to examine and enquire carefully. The associated firm of Sriram Arjundas, namely, Sriram Jhabharmall, has, as the Hon'ble Minister himself knows very well, refused to deliver yarn to the Government's yarn handling agent against Government permit. About 96 bales of yarn he refused to deliver early in February last. The matter was duly reported both to the Provincial Textile Controller and to himself but yet we do not know what action Government have taken against that firm and what arrangements have been made to secure those bales of yarn. I am informed that that firm definitely said that "We have sold out the yarn; do what you will". And why did they say that? because they knew that in their clutches was the Chairman of the Provincial Textile Advisory Committee who is an incorruptible person in the estimation of Mr. Suhrawardy. Out of these permits for 96 bales suddenly the Chairman comes and takes hold of the permits and snatches them away from the office of the Government agent for handling yarn. Have Government made any enquiry what business has had this Chairman of the Provincial Textile Advisory Committee to take away those permits and what relation he has with this firm of Sriram Arjundas and Company, and is it or is it not a fact that he has taken undue and unholy interest in all the previous cases in which this firm was hauled up for various malpractices. (Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTY: Who is the Chairman?) He is one of Mr. Chakravarty's kith and kin and his district man and he knows it very well.

Sir, I can multiply any number of such instances. Only a few weeks ago, the Provincial Textile Controller sent for any number of dealers of Burra Bazar on the allegation that their licenses would be cancelled because on the evidence produced before him by a certain responsible person it was clear that they were indulging in various malpractices, and what was the punishment meted out to them? They were threatened that unless they took over some stock of standard cloth then lying unsold in the hands of Government they would be prosecuted. These gentlemen at first demurred and then they took over the standard cloth with great satisfaction because on each of those standard cloth bales they made enormous profits—sometimes black-market profits also. If an enquiry is made in the office of the Provincial Textile Controller how the permits are issued and to whom how many bales have been given, the whole picture in its hideous nakedness will be out and revealed to any impartial observer.

Only one other example I will give and that is about the allotment of five bales of standard saree of 10 yards and 44 inches, which is a very rare

commodity so far as standard cloth is concerned, to one firm Shyamlal of Cotton Street a few weeks ago. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is he a standard cloth dealer?) He is a standard cloth dealer—Matilal Shyamlal—and the actual distributor was an Assistant Controller of the Civil Supplies Department and his name is one Mr. Khan.

Sir, this scandal abut standard cloth has exceeded all bounds now. Even of standard cloth which is controlled and supposed to be distributed by Government direct free black-marketing is going on. While on standard cloth, I would like to invite your attention, Sir, to one particular quality of standard cloth that Bengal needs very much at the moment—the standard drills. For many months the standard drills were unsaleable and Government thought they would have a large quantity of standard drills lying in their hands unsold and they became panicky. They sold or unloaded it at something less than ceiling price, because price was going to be lowered and today not one yard of that drill is to be found, although the boatmen in East Bengal want very badly this standard cloth for making sails and I do not know how the boatmen would be enabled to move valuable goods, if they are not in a position to use the sails for their boats. In our estimate of various requirements of Bengal this use of standard cloth or cloth or textile as a whole, I am afraid, was left out through oversight and I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge will take note of it in due course. It is a very big item of our demands and I suppose this will be taken due note of.

Coming to salt, the arrangement so far made is far from satisfactory. My colleague Mr. J. C. Gupta invited the attention of Government to the manner in which the Government has been appointing monopolist agents irrespective of the interests of the consumers of Bengal for importing salt into this Province. (At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, I will require 10 minutes more.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you have already completed 15 minutes. I cannot give you so much time. All right, you just go on.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Naupada Chamber of Commerce wrote to me pointing out while the control rate of Calcutta salt was Rs. 12-4 per bag of two maunds with gunny bags, one Messrs. Habib Masuni and Company was appointed all on a sudden a sole importer of salt from Naupada side, and while the Naupada merchants were previously selling salt to Calcutta f.o.r. Shalimar at Rs. 8-7 only, this party was permitted to charge up to Rs. 12. When I made a reference to Government about this at first I was told that this party was appointed because at that time there was nobody offering their services. I would like the Hon'ble Minister to enquire if there was any tender invited or this was only a panicky method of appointing some agents on party or other basis.

Coming to the loss and wastage in boats, I submit that I have a better experience of this as one connected with the management of a premier indigenous transport company. Sir, at the instance of Government two years ago we undertook to construct hundred big size country boats and we invested Rs. 10 lakhs therein. We constructed 125 boats and out of these 125 boats now only 40 are remaining above water. One by one the rest of these boats have gone down the river and when this proposal of boat construction came up and we were consulted, we did say to Government that this would be a most suicidal policy and Government should not go in for it. Here is a sample of the bottom of a boat (shown). It has been eaten into by a kind of worm which grows freely in the salt water in the lower reaches of the rivers of Bengal. It is extremely difficult to protect the boats from them and we have been absolutely fed up, and are suffering serious losses. We pray and request the Government to examine their proposal once again. The Government of Bengal have taken into account an amount of Rs. 6 crores and odd—Rs. 6,68,00,000—as assets against the loss or indebtedness of the

Province of Bengal—assets on account of the boats constructed. It appears from a record of accounts that more than two crores of rupees were spent during the last year—Rs. 2 croes and 37 lakhs—and this year the proposed expenditure was 5 crores and a half on account of the construction of boats. I can state here with authority that these boats were going to give the Department far less work than what the esteemable gentleman, General Wakely, who in his enthusiasm not knowing the consequences went in for this kind of experiments, had estimated. It will lead to a serious loss to the whole Province. Many of the boats are now ready and handed over to Government and General Wakely's Department does not know what to do with them, because there is now a plethora of boats. General Wakely's Department of Movements draw up programme which they never can follow. At Khulna and elsewhere boats and steamers—space in boats and space in flats—are available and the boats are lying waste for any length of time and they cannot make use of them. At Calcutta, more than 250 boats are lying and rotting in the water and their crews are being paid. The sooner this boat construction policy is scrapped the better. I submit, Sir, that Government should take wiser counsel in this matter.

Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85-A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the huge loss on account of grain purchase scheme.

Sir, the trading transactions of the Government are going to cost the poor taxpayer a loss of about Rs. 14 crores in the current year and an estimated loss of about six crores of rupees in the coming year. Such an appalling waste of public money does not perturb our Ministers nor their supporters, and they continue to laugh and sneer, while we from the Opposition recount, from day to day, the tales of agony and sufferings of our people or suggest in vain, constructive proposals for remedying this state of things. Sir, the apathy and callousness of the members supporting the Ministry in the face of such terrible waste is most disappointing. As representatives of the people, as zealous guardians of people's interests it is the obvious duty of the members of this House irrespective of their party affiliation, to examine these trading transactions with utmost care, to expose ruthlessly wherever instances of corruption and maladministration are found, and to bring to light all available information regarding causes and factors which have involved the Province in such a disaster. No member who yet feels any sense of responsibility to his constituency can swallow this gigantic wastage without a searching of his heart.

Sir, there is a widespread feeling in the country based on definite facts and experience, that there has been something very shady, very nasty about these transactions that only a part of this loss is due to genuine causes, while the greater part of it resulted from a gigantic conspiracy between a section of corrupt officials and corrupt Government purchasing agents with some of the Ministers at their head—only a partial picture which has been revealed in Burma Evacuee Camp Case, though in a different sphere of public administration. Sir, we do not know what part of this huge money has actually gone into the pockets of the authorities and their favourite agents. The stories recounted by a member of the Upper House the other day regarding the manner in which part of the grant for boat construction scheme has been divided between Ministers and their close relations amongst *benami* firms of contractors, have shocked public opinion in the province and have revealed how shamelessly these occupants of the Ministerial *guddi* misutilise public funds for personal profit and gain and deliberately promote and foster corruptions amongst their underlings and officials.

Sir, wherever Muslim League has been in power, the same tale of corruption, maladministration, misapplication of public funds for personal

profit has been in evidence; and no department has offered more extensive, more widespread opportunities for corruption and misappropriation than these trading transactions which we call "Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes". Sir, if we look to Assam, to Sind, the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province—everywhere we meet with this disgusting tale of Ministerial corruption. Sir, if corruption emanates from the top, it is bound to infect the entire administration, as it has done in Bengal. Even officials noted for their honesty tend to become dishonest when they find their superior gods stooping to anything.

Sir, these trading transactions have been the undoing of the League Ministries in other provinces. Sir, who does not know that the tussle between the Syed Group and Sir Ghulam Hossain Hedayetulla in Sind owed its origin to the controversy about Grain Purchase Syndicate in which some of the League Ministers were interested: That Grain Purchase Syndicate had to be dissolved and the Ministers interested had to make their exit, one by one, on some ground or other. Though the Muslim League Ministry have survived the first onslaught their end is almost in sight. Sir, so also in Assam, Punjab, and North-West Frontier Province those who know the inside story will corroborate me when I say that it is the food-grain transactions around which all the internal dissensions centred and for which the League Ministers had to make or are making their exits one by one. The Punjab Premier revealed the other day only a part of the story behind the dismissal of Mr. Shaukat Hyat Khan. In Assam even the European Group had to criticize and oppose the League Ministry for their misdeeds and maladministration. In North-West Frontier Province some of the League Ministers resigned in disgust from the Ministerial Party and joined the Opposition. So also in Sind.

Sir, in Sind, the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province the Governments made large profits out of their grain transactions while we in Bengal incurred huge losses. In those provinces some of the Ministers backed up by their Muslim League members of the Assembly took the initiative in purging their Ministries of their corrupt elements. The difference between Bengal and those Provinces is only this—that in Bengal those trading transactions have landed the province in bankruptcy and the profiteer and the exploiter from the Minister down to the Agent have by their unscrupulousness immensely added to the financial indebtedness of the Province, while in those provinces their corrupt Minister and their agents only deprived their governments, of a share of their legitimate profits. Some of the M.L.As. belonging to the League in those Provinces felt scandalised at the conduct of their ministers and have thought it their obvious duty to bring about either the downfall or the reconstruction of their Ministry. But here in Bengal the position appears to be different. Sir, the more the stories of corruption and maladministration are brought to light the more they exhibit their unholy glee, to the utter disgust and shame of the general public. Let them not forget that they will have to answer one day to their constitutencies and even if the voters are Muslims, I know the Muslim masses have a very strong commonsense and they have begun already to realise the game of these so-called devotees of the Muslim League. You can befool the masses for a time, you cannot befool them for all time!

Sir, allegations have been made on the floor of this House and also in the Upper House that some of the Ministers and their close relations happen to be partners in the Bengal Construction Co. and Shalimar Engineering Co. These firms, as we know, have secured contracts for construction of boats. A part of the crores of the rupees that are being spent for boat construction has fallen into the hands of those two firms. We must demand that the Ministry shall make a full statement about all that is happening behind the scene. Sir, I think the suggestions made by Mr. Gladding yesterday will be very much helpful in unravelling this mystery. I think,

Sir, the C.I.D. officers should be immediately asked to look into the transactions and bank accounts of these two firms and find out what relation they have with the Ministers. I hope, Sir, the European Party will join with us in making this demand. Sir, the European Group in the Assam Province has taken their stand against the Assam Ministry in the interest of clean administration. I wonder what prevents the European Party in this Assembly from taking a similar stand. Rai Bahadur K. C. Banerjee has made many grave allegations in the Council the other day against the Ministry. They are definite charges and the Ministry must give a convincing answer to each one of those charges. Otherwise the Ministers concerned must quit their *gaddi*. If the European Group chooses to maintain in power Ministers who are unable to clear their conduct, that will mean that they are out to prolong a regime of corruption and maladministration for their own sordid self interest.

Sir, I have not gone into a detailed examination of the causes that have led to the huge loss on the trading account, because I find it a mere waste of time—because it is not going to serve any useful purpose. The Ministry is bent on following its own course for the benefit of themselves and their pet followers. We have however the satisfaction that the people including the Muslim masses are now wide awake and when the time for reckoning will come—and it is coming faster than any of them imagine—the League Ministry will have to pay dearly for their misdeeds.

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government to construct the boats in Bengal.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about (*i*) the policy of the Government regarding purchase and distribution of foodgrains in Bengal, and (*ii*) the policy of the Government regarding the distribution of standard cloths.

Sir, সময়ের যখন খুব টানাটানি তখন আমি মাত্র একটি কথা বলেই আমার আসন গ্রহণ করবো। এই food grains ক্রয় সম্বন্ধে যশোহর জেলায় আউস ধান ক্রয় করে কুড়ি লাখ্ মণ Station এ পচাবার পরে আমন ক্রয়ের জন্য যশোহরের ব্যবসায়িগণকে বলা হয়েছিল। বেনাপোল প্রভৃতি যায়গায় Chief agent, Ispahani & Co. কতকগুলি sub-agent করেছিলেন। Sub-agent নিযুক্ত করে তাদের বলা হয়েছিল প্রথমে তাদের সঙ্গে চুক্তি ছিল ছয় টাকা চার আনা দরে দাম দেওয়া হবে। যখন তারা সাধারণ লোকের কাছ থেকে, ফোড়েদের কাছ থেকে, সেই ধান কিনে এনে agent কে দিয়েছিল, তখন তাঁরা ৬।০ দরে bill করেছিলেন। কিন্তু দাম দেওয়ার সময় তাদের বলা হোলো যে ৬।০ দরে দেওয়া হবে না, দেওয়া হবে ৫।০ দরে। যখন তারা খুব আপত্তি করলে চুক্তির কথা উল্লেখ করলে, তখন তাদের বলা হোলো যে এই যে একটি টাকা করে তোমাদের নিকট হতে লওয়া হচ্ছে, উহা War fundএ দিতে হবে। অথচ তাদের সে রকম কোন receipt দেওয়া হয়নি; receipt দেওয়া হয়েছিল ৬।০ দরে। এই যে ৬।০ দরে receipt দিয়ে ৫।০ দরে দাম দেওয়া হোলো এই বেশী এক টাকা কোথায় গেল? এবং এর পরে যখন সাধারণ ক্রেতাকে উড়িয়ে দিয়ে Government থেকে ক্রেতা appoint করা হ'লো তখন তারা সাধারণ লোকের নিকট হতে তারা তাদের স্বেচ্ছামত দরে ধান কিনতে আরম্ভ করলে। বাজারে অন্য খরিদ্দার রহিল না। তার ফলে কি অবস্থা হোলো? দর অত্যধিক কমে গেল। এই যে চাষীর উৎপন্ন জিনিষ, এই যে খাদ্যশস্যের অবস্থা, ইহা আজ শুধু বেনাপোল, বনগাঁয়ে নয় বাংলার প্রায় সর্বত্র দেখা যায় যে এমনিভাবে চাষীর উৎপন্ন বস্তুর দর কমে গিয়েছে, আর লাভ হয়ে যাচ্ছে যারা Chief agents, sub-agents তাদের। ইহার বিশেষ তদন্ত এবং প্রতিকার আবশ্যক। আমি এই কথা বলেই আসন গ্রহণ করছি।

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on

provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the general policy of the Government with regard to Civil Supplies.

মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, এই বিভাগের প্রায় ২৩ কোটী টাকা ব্যয়-বরাদ্দের আগম-নিগমের ইতিকথা বলবার জন্য যখন ২৩ মিনিটও সময় মিলবে না, তখন চিন্তায় বিষয় হয়ে পড়ে কেমন করে ৫।৭ মিনিটের মধ্যে বলবার কথার অন্ততঃ কাঠামও খাড়া করতে পারি। স্মরণ হ'ল পঞ্চতন্ত্র উপাখ্যানের প্রারম্ভেই "প্রবল নৃপ-মুকুটমণি-মরীচি-চয়-চর্চ্চিত-চরণ-যুগল সকলকলাপারংগত রাজা অমরশক্তি তাঁর পরম দুর্মেধসঃ সন্তানদের শিক্ষা বিষয়ে একান্ত হতাশ হয়ে পণ্ডিত বিষ্ণুশর্মাকে যখন একটা উপায় উদ্ভাবন করবার জন্য অনুরোধ করেন, তখন বিষ্ণুশর্মা বলেছিলেন :

"অনন্ত পারং কিল শব্দশাস্ত্রম,
স্বল্পাশ্চ আয়ুর্বহবশ্চ বিঘ্নাঃ
ততঃ সারং গ্রাহ্যং অপাস্য ফল্গু,
হংসৈর্যথা ক্ষীরমুমধ্যাৎ।"

আমাদেরও সময় স্বল্প, বাধা বহু এবং বিবেচ্য বিষয় বিবিধ এবং বিচিত্র।

Civil Supply বিভাগ বাংলার হাটেবাটে চোর এবং চুরির বিরাট হরিহরক্ষেত্রের বেলা বসিয়ে একটা ন ভূত, ন ভবিষ্যৎ কাণ্ড বাধিয়ে যে পঞ্চোনী উপাখ্যান রচনা করতে সুরু করেছেন, তার প্রকৃত স্বরূপটা আমাদের নিখিল প্রজাপীড়ক-কুলকালিমা-অমা-প্রগাঢ়-ঘন-ঘটা-মসীমণ্ডিত-মুখমণ্ডল-লুণ্ঠন-কলা-পারংগত মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর পুচ্ছধারী পরম দুর্মেধসঃ মাননীয় মেম্বর মহোদয়গণকে বুঝিয়ে দেবার জন্য কোন উপায় না পেয়ে বিশাল সংস্কৃত সাহিত্যে প্রবেশের সহায়ক ব্যাকরণ সূত্রের ন্যায় বিরাট Civil Supply বিভাগে প্রবেশ করার সন্ধানীসূত্রটী উপস্থিত করছি। মাননীয় মেম্বরগণকে অনুরোধ করব প্রথম প্রথম বুঝবার পক্ষে অসুবিধা হলে সেটীকে কিছুদিন মন্ত্রজপার ন্যায় তাঁরা যেন আবৃত্তি করেন। কারণ "আবৃত্তি সর্ব্বশাস্ত্রানাং বোধাদপি গরীয়সী" এবং জপাৎ সিদ্ধি। Civil Supply বিভাগে প্রবেশ করতে হলে, প্রথমেই প্রয়োজন হবে "সিভিল" কথাটীর সরকারী পরিভাষায় উৎপত্তি ব্যুৎপত্তিগত অর্থ কি? সেই ব্যুৎপত্তিগত অর্থে পৌঁছিবার নিদান সূত্রটি হচ্ছে--

সিন্ধুপারের সিঁধেলি শিখিতে
তাহে উপজিল 'সি',
ভিটের ভিটের ঘুঘু ভিড়াইতে,
ইথে জনমিল 'ভি'।
লক্ষ হাতের লক্ষ্মী লুটের,
প্রতীক 'ল'কার তার,
রসিক যেজন বুঝিবে এখন
'সিভিলী' তত্ত্বসার।
উঠিতে সে চুরি বসিতে সে চুরি,
চুরি সে সকল কাজে,
চুরি সে অশনে চুরি সে বসনে,
চুরি সে ভূষণ সাজে।
চুরির ওড়ন, চুরির পাড়ন,
চুরির শয়ন পাতি,
চুরির আলিসে চুরির বালিসে,
চুরি ধ্যানে কাটে রাতি।
চ'ড়ি চুরি গাড়ী, ফিরে বাড়ী বাড়ী,
চুরির অলিতে গলিতে।
চুরি ডালি তুলি ভ'রে চোরা থলি,
আলিয়া চুরির সলিতে।।
শুন সে কহি যে ঠারে।
চুরির পরম পিরীতি প্রভাবে,
দিনে দিনে বপু বাড়ে।

মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, আপনিও স্বীকার করবেন সূত্রটী এতই নিখুঁৎ যে তার নিদান অনুসারে সিভিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগ পরিচালনায় কোথায়ও কোন ব্যাকরণ দোষ ঘটিয়ে আর্ষ প্রয়োগের প্রয়োজন হয় না।

সর্বত্র যথেচ্ছ বিচরণ সম্ভব। কেন্দ্রীয় পরিষদে প্রশ্নোত্তরের জবাব অনুসারে বাংলার খাদ্য-সমস্যার সমাধান প্রচেষ্টায় ৩,৬৬৪ টন বা এক লক্ষ মণ খাদ্যদ্রব্য পচিয়ে বাংলার ৩০ লক্ষ নরনারীকে অনাহারে পরপারে বিদায় করার কালজয়ী অক্ষয় কীর্তি অর্জনেও সন্তুষ্ট না হয়ে বাংলার Civil Supply বিভাগ যেদিন বস্ত্র-সমস্যার সমাধানের উপর দৃষ্টি দিলেন তখন কথা কি! 'যথাদৃষ্টি তথা ভস্মং চকার, দৃষ্টি এমনি শুভ যে বাংলায় আর কাপড় নাই। অবশ্য মাননীয় মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে একটা সান্ত্বনার সংবাদ দিতে পারি। বিবস্ত্র বাংলায় অন্যান্য অনেক সুবিধার কথা বিবেচনা করে বাইরের বহু লোক বসবাস করবার জন্য যে গান গেয়ে দলে দলে বাংলা অভিমুখে আসার অভিযান এরই মধ্যে সুরু করেছে সে গানটা সত্যই সান্ত্বনাদায়ক। সে গানটা হচ্ছে এই :--

"ঠিক করেছি বাংলা দেশেই
করব মোরা ঘর,
সবাই যখন সেথায় এখন
হচ্ছে দিগম্বর।
রবে না আর কাপড় কেনার
বালাই কোন বাজার দেনার,
পাওনাদারের জোর তাগিদে
আসবে নারে জ্বর।
এ দুর্দিনে করি যদি
বাংলা দেশে ঘর।।
বারো মাসের মাস আট নয়,
গরম সওয়ার কষ্ট না বয়,
হয় না ওরে কাপড় পরে
ঘামতে ঝর ঝর।
কোনমতে করি যদি
বাংলা দেশে ঘর।।
শীতটা সে ত মাস দুই তিন,
দিনে না হয় পরব কৌপিন,
জ্বাললে রাতে খড়ের আগুন
শীতই পাবে ডর।।
বারেক যদি করতে পায়
বাংলা দেশে ঘর।।
সাড়ী সায়া সেমিজ পেনির,
বাছাই নিয়ে ঘ্যান্ ঘ্যানানির,
বাড়ীর ভেতর মনান্তরীর
বইবে নারে ঝড়।
এমন সুখের বাংলা দেশে,
কে না করে ঘর?
সচিব সুরাবর্দী তাঁরে
সেলাম জানাই বারম্বারে,
চোরা বাজার বজায় রাখুন
এমনি নিরন্তর।
মোদের শুধু এই নিবেদন,
দোসর তাঁহার প্রেম বর্ষণ,
দয়া করে কমান যেন
গাঁজার কিছু দর।
আবালবৃদ্ধ সবাই যখন,
হয়ে দিগম্বর,
সশরীরে করব বিরাজ
বঙ্গে ঘরে ঘর।"

(At this stage the House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have decided that Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas, Mr. Upendra Nath Barman, Mr. Norton, Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri and Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury will speak generally on this demand and after that the Hon'ble Minister will give the reply.

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK: মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার সাহেব, আমিও এবিষয়ে কিছু বলিতে চাই।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you will get 5 minutes.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Hon'ble Minister's demand for grant under the head "Capital outlay". I would ask the House to refuse supplies demanded by the Hon'ble Minister for "Capital outlay" any longer.

Sir, I wonder why of all provinces in India, Bengal has been selected to be punished with famine after famine from year to year. Sir, the policy of control of supply and distribution has been given effect to in many places in Great Britain and many other countries in Europe and also in other provinces of India. This policy has succeeded almost everywhere whereas it has miserably failed in this province. Why has it happened?—that is a pertinent question which my friends and many of my countrymen ask. Is it due to the Imperialistic policy that the people of Bengal must be forced into such a terrible distress that they will be attracted to join the Army and the Navy? Sir, I do not know how to reply to that question, but I pause for a reply from the Hon'ble Minister whether such famines are created out of the Imperialistic policy of the British Government to draw our young men and boys for recruitment to the Army and the Navy.

Then, Sir, I would state the reasons why I do not like the House to vote for any capital for the trading operations that the Bengal Government have undertaken. I would take up the trading operations in respect of grains first. Sir, I do not see any reason to continue the trading operations in respect of grains. It has been admitted by the Government of Bengal that this province is now sufficient with regard to her food crops. The supply being equal to the demand, if not greater, there is no necessity from the economic point of view to control the supply and to take up the responsibility of distribution. Sir, it has been admitted by the Bengal Government that there has been excess in stock and carry over from the previous years and that is why the Government of Bengal asked for the permission of the Government of India to export about 10,000 tons of grains from Bengal. That being the position, where is the necessity of continuing this policy of purchasing grains and then distributing the grains to the people.

Sir, besides that, this policy of purchasing food-grains has had very disastrous effects upon the people of the whole of the province. My friends on my opposite will bear me out that this policy of Government of restricting free trade and of taking upon themselves the responsibility of buying and distributing rice have had very serious effect upon the rural Bengal. What has been the position? The rural Bengal has all along been supplied with paddy and rice by their own traders. The village traders knew where to purchase and where to sell, but they have been restricted from making purchases. Restriction upon the movements of paddy and rice has been imposed in rural trade. Therefore, the rural people who are used to be supplied by the rural trade are not getting supplies from that source. On the other hand, the Government of Bengal who took upon themselves the responsibility of supplying paddy and rice to the rural people have not opened sufficient stores for supplying the same to the rural people. It was demanded from this House that each union should have sufficient stock to be put into the market when the market would run short of food supplies, but no union, as far as I know, has been blessed with Government stocks. There are stocks in subdivisional headquarters and in important *bundars*,

but the supplies from those stocks to the rural area are made through three, four or five selected shops per union and the supplies are very inadequate. Where in a union the daily requirement would be about 100 maunds of rice, the supply from those shops is not even 50 maunds per month. So, the supply of paddy and rice in the rural area has been shortened and that is why the prices have gone higher. In my quarter of the district of Faridpur rice is selling today between the prices of Rs. 14 and Rs. 16. Sir, I wonder why this should be the price at this time. We all know that the prices of rice and paddy run very high during the months of August to October, but during the months of last August to October, the prices of rice and paddy were much lower than the prices ruling today.

Sir, my point is that Government should give up their policy of purchasing and distributing. Let the trade be free. Let the trade purchase what they can purchase and they will be able to supply paddy and rice to the rural area. If that is done, then I think the rural people will get their supplies freely and the poor agriculturists also will get fair price. Government may only look to the offenders who hoard paddy and rice.

Sir, during the last food drive, the Hon'ble Minister drove the food from the houses of many poor men but did not touch the big agriculturists. Big agriculturists had in their stocks thousands of maunds of paddy but the Government of Bengal did not touch those stocks. You remember, Sir, that during the last few months, during last August to October, paddy was put into the market by agriculturists although during 1943 millions of our people died for want of food and that is why at a time when the price would naturally rise high, it fell down and paddy was selling at Rs. 5 or 6 per maund because those agriculturists had to clear their godowns for storing paddy for the next year. That is why they cleared their godowns and that paddy came to the market. In any case, Sir, when the supply is equal to the demand if not greater, there is no necessity for the Government to carry on these operations of food purchase. (A VOICE FROM THE MINISTERIALIST BENCHES: There will be black-marketing.) Sir, my friend says that there will be black-marketing. You should keep watch, so that nobody can hoard and if nobody can hoard there will be no black-marketing. If you want to penalise hoarding you engage a competent, efficient and honest staff to deal with the hoarder, with the offender. If the Government of Bengal say that they cannot possibly have an efficient and honest staff, the present Ministry should abdicate and give up their seats in the Treasury Benches.

Then, Sir, with regard to cloth, my proposal is the same. Don't rush in for the control of supplies and don't take any responsibility for distribution. If the looms of Indian mills used for the purpose of making cloths for the military have been decreased, then the looms which are reserved for manufacturing cloth for supply to the poor have not decreased but rather increased. In that case I ask the Hon'ble Minister to reply to my question: when under worse circumstances in 1943 and 1944 there was no cloth famine in Bengal why famine of cloth has occurred in the early months of 1945? The only reply to this question is that it was due to the interference of the Bengal Government. Let the Bengal Government clear out; let them not interfere with the ordinary trade. They know to whom the cloth goes, because under the Cloth Control Order promulgated by the Government of India the dealers have been enlisted and Government know who are the dealers. The Government of Bengal also know which dealers get how much cloth per month. If that is known, where is the difficulty in punishing the dealers if they hoard? Government may inspect their daily transactions; Government may penalise, punish the dealers who will not sell while there is any stock. If they are punished, then they will not hoard. If they do not hoard, if they sell their goods to the retailers freely, then the retailers will freely sell to the public. But instead of doing that if they select some shops for distribution, there will be dearth of cloth and

the public will be put to more torture than even today. So I say let not the Ministry of Bengal take up this responsibility. They have miserably failed by not being able to discharge the responsibility which they had. They made a blunder as regards the responsibility which they took upon themselves in the matter of distribution of rice and paddy and that, in fact, resulted in the deaths of millions of our countrymen. Let not the Ministry commit the very same mistake, because the Ministry of Bengal has proved itself dishonest and inefficient.

Mr. H. R. NORTON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, speaking generally on this demand, I shall confine myself to the Cloth situation in Bengal as far as Europeans and the users of the finer cloths are concerned, also the activities of the enforcement branch if time permits.

The Hon'ble Minister has recently made an excellent statement (on which I congratulate him) on the cloth situation in Bengal.

The present cloth position has been brought about by the Government having an inexperienced group of officers and staff, and no definite plan of action to control cloth, a control that was not needed in the Province at the time it was introduced (or even now), except for the coarser made cloths.

I do not know if the blame rests with the Hon'ble Minister or his department, but in this case I do not know if the Minister control the Civil Supplies or if the department control his actions, if the latter then it was time this intolerable state of affairs ceased and some definite action be taken, so we know to whom the blame in future can be levelled at, for without doubt there will be plenty of criticism in the future in spite of the Hon'ble Minister's excellent statement.

Up to the present the Cotton Cloth Control has been so pulled to pieces that it might be termed the Rag Control Order, who asked for this control, no responsible body was asked for advice, it was just thrust upon the public in a most ill-advised way and today it is a meance for the public as well as the retailers are suffering for neither can get cloth.

Before the control was introduced cloth could be bought anywhere (I refer to the finer qualities) at very reasonable prices in many cases less than the control price that was introduced, and most European and other retailers were able to obtain stocks and carry on. Control brought immediate shortage and Black Market dealings, so today European establishments have practically nothing to sell either made up or by the yard.

Customers have now to go from place to place receiving the same reply "Sorry we have none."

We know that the control price of cloth has been fixed by the Central Government but I would urge on the Hon'ble Minister to protest to the Central Government for an increase, for the present prices have been fixed without consideration of the overheads for the various establishments who do retail business for to sell goods at control prices unless returns can be increased by at least 5 times spells a heavy loss to those large stores whose legitimate business is to retail and whose over heads are very high.

The line of thought today is a fair deal for everyone, then let Government start with a fair profit to the retailer, remove the control and let business be done as it was before the control, though even then I will admit there was a shortage but there was cloth available and the customer did get some, but today there is none.

With reference to the Hon'ble Minister's statement to the Press, I will take firstly his most important point "rationing", he states this is the only solution; I cannot say I agree with him unless a well-planned scheme is carefully thought out and ample stocks are available to give the scheme a satisfactory send off, but then who are to be the first to get theirs.

I think rationing should only be introduced where the coarser cloths are concerned, such as Saries and Dhoties; and the finer cloths should be left to the ordinary retailing channels and stores. I can assure the Hon'ble Minister, that no firm will sell stocks in bulk, knowing full well it may be in indefinite period before they get more, but will ration it to their regular customers over a period of time to enable business to continue but if they decide on total rationing then Government cannot hope to succeed without the co-operation of reliable and trustworthy trade channels. There are no doubt many black sheep in the cloth trade, but in spite of this reliable and experienced trade channels can be found.

We agree that rationing is one solution of the shortage and if this is done we must emphasise that irrespective of political and communal considerations the selection of distributing agencies whether under the rationing scheme or temporary arrangements until rationing can be brought into force should be done through experienced trade channels. Sir, we emphasise this because Government have shown a tendency to choose inexperienced trade channels with unfortunate results. Then again why is Bengal to be satisfied with 2 saries or 2 dhoties for 1 year while it is proposed to allot the same quantity in Bombay for six months?

Once again I emphasise that the finer cloths should be sold through the ordinary trade channels, as the rationing of these without discrimination is going to be a problem. Present concealed stocks will come on the market when the Central Government allow an adequate profit for if anyone is ready to pay black-market prices, stock is available.

The Hon'ble Minister states that only 6¼ per cent. of the cloth sent to Bengal is in finer qualities. This is difficult to believe, for if the remainder is coarser cloth, then there should not be the great shortage complained of.

Statements in the press lead the public to believe that Bengal has received more than its quota. This is denied by the Hon'ble Minister, Mr. S. C. Roy, Chairman, Textile Board, and also by various Chambers of Commerce, and yet even today we read in the paper that in the Council of State in reply to a question Mr. H. M. Patel said that there was absolutely no shortage of cloth in Bengal. Whom are we to believe? The fact that there is room for argument between the Central and Provincial Governments as to the amount of cloth actually received in Bengal shows how defective both the controlled arrangements and statistics are. It appears that neither Government are in a position to state how much cloth has actually reached Bengal. As a businessman of 36 years experience in Calcutta, I have never known such a dearth of cloth as there has been during the past 12 months. Today my fixtures as well as those of other stores are empty and we can get no redress as we did not buy sufficient quantities from the mills in the basic year to obtain a quota. My own method of purchasing Indian made cloth was from brokers. We did not require bales of one pattern but a larger assortment in smaller quantities. That way our purchases ran into lakhs of yards. But because we did not buy direct from the mills, long standing firms like mine are excluded from the quota. If this is not discrimination, what is?

I revert to the Bengal quota in which the Minister in his recent statement has made out a good case for revision. Allotment on a problematical basis of pre-war consumption is unsatisfactory especially in Bengal where consumption during the war years has increased far greater than in other provinces.

The Hon'ble Minister should at least demand the same quota as the Punjab is getting, viz., 18 yards per head per annum, and insist that this amount is supplied in cloth only. Other commodities made of cotton should have a separate quota and there should also be a separate quota for Red Cross and Military requirements. The Bengal quota must be for civilian consumption only. He should also suggest to the Central Government

that home needs come first and get them to reduce the 600 million yards of finer cloth now being exported to Australia. In denying the Indian population this cloth, do they think that they are building up a post-war trade with Australia for piece-goods? They may—I don't. Drastic measures are needed to deal with black-marketing. At present they are defective. We read in the papers daily of various seizures but it is very noticeable that except in the case of petty offences, the names and addresses of offenders and the punishment meted out to them, if any, are never published, though, so far, this exception has not been accorded to the European retailers. Whenever the latter have been summoned for the slightest breach of rules, fines and names have been blazoned in all the papers. Why again this discrimination?

Then again, Sir, in the case of seized stocks, what is being done with them? We were offered some once, we bought, paid cash, took delivery from various places and our average actual profit worked out at 6¼ per cent., while the man whose goods were frozen got from 10 to 15 per cent. and cash before delivery. That is not the worst. The bales did not contain the goods they were represented to be. What firm after this kind of treatment is going to accept further offers without knowing what it is buying?

In a recent instance, frozen stocks of mirrors held by 4 dealers in Swallow Lane were to be sold at wholesale controlled price to dealers and firms to whom permits had been issued by the Deputy Controller General of Civil Supplies.

Though we have been regular customers of these firms for 40 years and large users of mirrors, we were not offered any; nor any other European store. But they were simply sold to Indian firms, some of them quite obscure and unknown in the glass trade. Will they sell at the controlled rate? Is this communal or otherwise?

My informant with whom I have done business for years has alleged that these have been obtained by bribing the Inspectors concerned. I believe it; else, how do people not previously concerned in the cloth or other trades suddenly come into the limelight when frozen stocks are to be disposed of?

Who was the firm who had 1,500 watches seized because they refused to sell one and which were handed back to them about 3 days after—no name and no explanation as to why?

Concluding, once again, I would impress upon the Government that it is useless for them to attempt their control, distribution and enforcement policies without having an efficient staff to carry them out; otherwise, we shall continue in the same muddle as we are in today.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: মাননীয় Deputy Speaker সাহেব, Sir, মন্ত্রী মহোদয় ২২,৭৪,৬৮,০০০ খরচের জন্য যে বাজেট এনেছেন আমি তার বিরুদ্ধে বলিতে ইচ্ছা করি। ২২ কোটি ৭৪ লক্ষ ৬৮ হাজার টাকা, আপনারা এখানে যত export লোক আছেন, কাগজে কলমে ছাড়া আর কেহই বলিতে পারিবেন না ২২ কোটি টাকায় কয় হাজার হয়। (laughter) হাসেন কেন? হিসাব করে দেখুন না। শুধু মুখের কথায় টাকার হিসাব করে এবং; বাপ দাদা চৌদ্দপুরুষে এ টাকা দেখে নাই এ সব টাকা খরচ করে নাই; লবণ কি করে হয় তা দেখে নাই, চিনি কোথায় হয় তা জানে না। শুধু কলকাতার উপর থেকে মটর চড়ে আরামে দৌড়োয় আর বাংলা দেশের জনসাধারণকে মারিয়া ফেলাইবার উপায় করছেন। এটাকা কিভাবে খরচ হবে তা জানবার উপায় আমাদের হবে না, সম্পূর্ণ জানা আমাদের পক্ষে অসম্ভব। এই অসংখ্য টাকা লইয়া তাঁরা ইচ্ছা মত অপব্যয় করবেন। এতগুলি লোক এত কথা বলছে আপনাদের লজ্জা হয় না? মাননীয় সুরাওয়ার্দী সাহেব তিনি বলেছেন oppositionএর memberরা সমালোচনা করছেন এই জন্য যে তাঁহারা মন্ত্রী হবার লালসায় মিথ্যাকথা কহিতেছেন। কিন্তু আমি বলি এই বলি আহম্মদ মন্ত্রী হবার জন্য লালায়িত নন এবং উপযুক্তও নন। আমি এই কথা বলছি আমি কোনো দলেও নাই, কিছু চাই ও না।

মাননীয় সুরাওয়ার্দী সাহেব বলেছেন অনাহারে মৃত লোকের সংখ্যা কত লক্ষ, না সাত লক্ষ। অনেকবার প্রশ্ন করা হয়েছে অনাহারে মৃতের সংখ্যা কত; আপনারা উত্তর দিতে পারেন নাই, আপনারা বলতে পারেন নাই।

শুধু আহারের অভাব কেন, রোগে ঔষধ নাই। সুতরাং অনাহারে মৃতের হিসাব দেবার আপনাদের কোন right নাই। সাত লক্ষ লোক অনাহারে মারা যাবে? হয় সরকার মিথ্যা বলছেন, না হয় যদি সত্য figure সংগ্রহ করিয়া থাকেন, সেও মিথ্যা বলেছে। খান বাহাদুর জালালুদ্দীন সাহেবের আপন ভাই, সেখানে President আমি জানি চট্টগ্রামে লাল কালীতে লিখেছেন, অনহারে মৃতের সংখ্যা সেই Unionএ July এবং August মাসে, ২২৭ জন। চট্টগ্রাম জেলায় ঐ সময় ৫০০ জন লোক মারা যায়। আপনারা জানেন ৫,০০০ ইউনিয়নে ৩০০ লোক করে মারা গেলে কত হয়। উনি যা বলেছেন তা কম হয়েছে, আরো বেশী লোক মারা গিয়েছে। আপনারা নিশ্চয় জানেন কলকাতায় অসংখ্য লোক পথে-ঘাটে মারা গিয়েছে, কিন্তু পাড়াগাঁয়ের তুলনায় কলকাতার লোক কম মারা গিয়েছে। (Here the member having reached his time limit, A Member : "লাল বাতি") লাল হোক কালো হোক আমি শুনবো না। আমি বলবোই, এসব কথা বলবার জন্য। আজকে চট্টগ্রামে চাউলের দর টাকায় ২ সের। কে বলেছে টাকায় আড়াই সের? আমি বলছি আপনাদের, না।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. I can't allow.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY : সেখানে খুন করেছে, হত্যা করেছে; আমি বলেবোই। চট্টগ্রামে চাউলের দর এখনই নূতন বৎসর আরম্ভ হবার আগেই, টাকায় আড়াই সের Gazetteএ দিয়েছে কিন্তু প্রকৃত তা নয়; সেখানে টাকায় ২ সের আরম্ভ হয়েছে। কিন্তু সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এখন বাংলা দেশে মৈমনসিং, ঢাকা, রংপুর, দিনাজপুর, বালদহ, কুচবেহার, রাজশাহী, যশোহর, খুলনা, এ সব যায়গায় টাকায় সওয়া দুই সের; কিন্তু চট্টগ্রামে ২ সের হয়েছে। তাঁরা বলিয়াছেন লবণের জন্য ৪,৪৪,০০,০০০ টাকার কি দরকার ছিল। আমি বারবার বলেছি লবণের জন্য এত টাকা Governmentএর তবিল থেকে দেওয়ার দরকার নাই। লবণের জন্য India Government কে কোটি টাকা revenue দেওয়া হয়। তাহার পর নৌকার জন্য ৫ $\frac{১}{২}$ কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ করেছেন। যখন যুদ্ধ হয় তখন জাপানীদের ভয়ে নৌকা নিয়েছিল। যার নৌকা নিয়েছে সেই গেরস্থ লোককে টাকা দিলে তারা নিজেদের নৌকা নিজেরা বানাতে পারেন। আপনি টাকা দিয়েছেন নৌকা তৈরি হবে চট্টগ্রামে, নৌকা চলবে হুগলী তে, ঢাকাতে। এই সব ব্যাপারে টাকা নিচ্ছে Contractor, তারপরে Engineer, তারপরে অমুক, তমুক। এ লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের ব্যাপার, আপনাদের পক্ষে দেখা অসম্ভব। কারণ বাংলা দেশে একটা huge কারবার হাতে নিয়েছেন। আমরা যারা কলকাতায় বাস করি ration card হাতে নিয়ে দোকানে গেলে কিছু কিছু পাই; আবার motor নিয়ে গেলে ত কথাই নাই। কিন্তু পাড়াগাঁয়ে সেখানে কিছু পাচ্ছে না। কলকাতার লোকেরা মফঃস্বলের দোকানে কি হয় তা জানে না। নিজের মাকে, ভগিনীকে, স্ত্রীকে বাংলা দেশের মফঃস্বলে দোকানে বেইজ্জৎ হতে হয়। আপনি বলেছেন আমরা control করবো মিলের কাপড়, সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তাঁতের কাপড়ও। তাঁতের কাপড় control করলে আর লোকে কাপড় পাবে না। আপনি control করছেন চিনি, কিন্তু চিনি যে এক বিন্দুও পাচ্ছে না। কলিকাতায় পাই, আমি পাই, কিন্তু আমার বাড়ি আমার একটা নাতি আছে সে দুধ খাবার জন্য একটুও চিনি পায় না। আমার বাড়ীতে রুগী আছে সে রুগী ওষুধ খাবার জন্য একটু চিনি পায় না। আমি সরকারকে নোটিস দিয়ে একটা question দিয়েছিলাম। এই রকম সারা বাংলায়;

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. Khan Bahadur, I have asked you several times to sit down. I thought you were a responsible member and would abide by the rules of procedure that I have to follow in this House. Your speech is not going into the proceedings. I have not been able to follow fifty per cent. of the dialect you have used, far from the Reporters being able to follow you.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY : আপনারা তাঁতের কাপড় control করবেন, তাহলে তাঁতীরা (loud shouting drowning the voice of the member).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, Order, your time is up.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY : আমি বুঝতে পারিনা, আপনি কি বললেন; বাংলায় বলুন। বলতে পারবো না? একটু সময় দিলেন না?

Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this afternoon I do not propose to wander into the many fields of offence and

corruption that obtain in the Grain Purchase Scheme of Government. What I propose to dilate on is only two points, one general and the other particular.

As regards the general policy of purchase, I wish to confine my remarks to the purchase of food-grains, viz., paddy and rice. I want to say that the Government up till now has got no fixed policy in determining the prices of paddy and rice from time to time. I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to state before the House if he approves of the policy that obtains with the Government in determining the prices of paddy and rice as at present. Sir, Government is the sole purchaser of paddy and rice in the Bengal market. Small consumers are allowed to purchase their own consumption quota up to a small quantity but Government, being practically the sole purchaser, determines prices and thus Government is the dictator of prices of paddy and rice from time to time. That being the case, it is incumbent upon Government to have a fixed policy in fixing the prices. The agriculturists who are growers of paddy and rice have some claim upon Government and that claim is that they want to live. In our poor country the agriculturists—the growers—have no other subsidiary occupation. They have two responsibilities imposed on them, viz., first of all he is responsible for feeding his family and his next responsibility comes when he has to purchase his essential stuffs. The only means by which the agriculturist can purchase the essentials of life is by selling his surplus stock and unless he gets an adequate price for it, he cannot purchase those commodities, whose prices have gone up three to four times. Certainly it can be easily imagined that the agriculturist fails in his other primary responsibilities also regarding education and health unless he gets an adequate price for his marketable surplus. Sir, I do not propose for a moment that the agriculturist should be given such a prohibitive price that he can exploit the consumers. My only point is that Government should, at the time when they fix the prices of paddy and rice, also consider about the condition of the agriculturist's family so that they can live and their present policy of "growing more food" may have some impression upon his mind and he may have some incentive to grow more. Unless that is done and if Government goes on reducing the prices of paddy and rice at random and without any definite idea thereby causing suffering to the agriculturist, I should say that the agriculturist, who is passing through very hard days even at this time when all other classes are going on merrily, will lose his incentive to grow more food. If I am allowed to quote an adage in a substituted form I may say "Who lives if the agriculturist dies and who dies if the grower lives?" I propose that the Government should set up an advisory committee so that the Government may come to a decision and have some definite principles in fixing the prices of paddy and rice. That expert committee may take figures about the essential necessaries of an agriculturist family and also collect figures as regards the average production of an agriculturist family. It is well-known that for this purpose an agriculturist family is taken to be consisting of 5 members, adult and young. After they have ascertained that, they may come to some conclusion—it may be rough, it is not possible to be definite but they may have some idea—about the price that they should pay for the excess or surplus grains that the agriculturist markets, so that keeping pace with the prices of other essentials, he can be in a position to purchase his necessaries of life. That is my humble suggestion.

Next I come to a concrete example regarding mismanagement about the policy of grain purchase. I beg to inform the House about one incident. I chanced to see a circular which had been issued by the Assistant Controller of Civil Supplies who is posted at Dinajpur. That circular had been served or had been given to a sub-agent at Jalpaiguri who got the agency for purchasing paddy from the district. It has been stipulated there or he has been enjoined to see that he may force down the price of paddy as

low as possible. As an incentive, he is told in that circular that he will get the price of paddy at the contract rate, get one anna per maund and in addition to these he will be allowed to keep all the marginal profit. Sir, this is a case of misappropriation, I must say. It is the agent who is allowed to misappropriate this marginal profit which at that time, so far as I know, was about Rs. 2 a maund. The agriculturist—the grower—was defrauded of his just price. Government had to pay down at the contract rate and it was only a few agents and sub-agents who misappropriated that money. If this sort of exploitation goes on, the agriculturist will not know where to find redress.

Sir, I submit Government should have some fixed policy. They should fix up what minimum prices for paddy and rice must be given to the actual grower and there should be some marginal profit for the agents and sub-agents. But the grower should not be left at the mercy of the agents and sub-agents. At the same time, they should not issue such instructions which go to the detriment of the poor grower.

Sir, with these remarks I submit that Government should fix up some definite policy regarding the fixation of prices.

Sir HENRY BIRKMYRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must apologise to the House for taking up still more of its time, but there is one point which I would like to bring to the notice of Government.

This point will not help my friends on that side, because I am not going to attack, or criticise, the Government. But I would like to point out one aspect of the cloth situation which I think needs looking into.

At present the whole of the canvas—by that I mean cloth of 12 oz. per square yard and over—which comes into Bengal is included in Bengal's quota of cotton cloth. Bengal is the home of the waterproofing industry. There are several firms here, of which mine own is one, which do practically the whole of the waterproofing of India's needs. Canvas comes in large quantities to Bengal. It is waterproofed by firms in Calcutta, and it is then re-exported all over India to Madras, Bombay, Northern India and everywhere where waterproof canvas is used.

Now, it seems unfair to Bengal that cloth, which comes into Bengal, and is waterproofed and which forms part of Bengal's industry and is then exported, should be taken out of Bengal's quota. It has been taken up by the firms with Mr. Tully and Mr. Jones, Director of Textiles. These two officers realise the unfairness of the position, and it has been pointed out to the Textile Commissioner in Bombay. The Cotton Cloth Control Order of the Government of India was clamped down without taking any thought of the question of canvas. My suggestion is that the Government of Bengal throw their weight in the scale to assist the Textile Director in his efforts to get cotton canvas, that is to say, cloths of 12 oz. per square yard and over, excluded from Bengal's quota.

Maulana ABDUR RAZZAK: মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, তুলসীপুজারী নাজি-মন্ত্রি সভার ভারপ্রাপ্ত মাননীয় সুরাবর্দী সাহেব যুদ্ধ-পরিস্থিতি উপলক্ষে standard cloth, boat, contractory ইত্যাদি যাহা জনসাধারণের হিতকল্পে যে অতিরিক্ত টাকা ব্যয় হইবে এই পরিষদে তাহা মঞ্জুরীর জন্য দাবী উপস্থিত করিয়াছেন। আমি আপনার মারফতে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা করিতেছি যে জাপান ও বৃটিশের মধ্যে যে যুদ্ধ চলিতেছে এই টাকা ঐ যুদ্ধ সংক্রান্ত ব্যাপারে ব্যয় করিবেন, না, তাহাদের দলগতভাবে যে বহু কোম্পানী খুলিয়াছে যথা (Ganges timber works—Sreerampur, Shibdurga Company, Pioneer Corporation, Faridpur, U. Ali Chowdhury ও মোহন মিয়া Bengal construction—Mr. Sahabuddin, North Bengal Trading Co. আবদুল্লা মামুদ, Eagle construction, মফিজুদ্দিন & Co. ইত্যাদি আরও অনেক চোরা কোম্পানী যথা চলিয়া মোসলেম ইণ্ডিয়া কোম্পানী এবং সেই টাকা দলগত মেম্বরদের মধ্যে ভাগ বাটোয়ারা করিয়া বাকবাকী তিনি নিজের কোম্পানীতে জমা দিতেছেন? এতে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের স্বার্থ আছে কিনা সত্য কথা বলিয়া দিলে আমি খুব বাধিত হইব। আমি বলি তাঁর নামের আগে Hon'ble

আছে, এজন্য মিথ্যা বলিবার ভয় নাই। আমার মনে হয় জাপানের বিরুদ্ধে বৃটিশের যুদ্ধ ফণ্ডে সেই টাকা জমা না দিয়া কেবল তাহাদের দলগত ও লীগ Goondaism ফণ্ডে জমা দিয়া বাংলার জমীয়ত-ওলামার সঙ্গে যুদ্ধ করিতে প্রস্তুত হইয়াছে। তাহার প্রমাণ, গত কল্য University Institute হলে জমিয়ত ওলামার হাতে লীগ গুণ্ডারা পরাস্ত হইয়া পলায়ন করিল (cheers)। ইহার নজির সারা বাংলার ইতিহাসে স্বর্ণাক্ষরে লিপিবদ্ধ থাকা উচিত। মাননীয় সুরাবর্দী সাহেবের এই কথা ভাবিয়া দেখা উচিত ছিল যে কাবুলের আমির আমানুল্লা ন্যায়-নিষ্ঠ আলেম সমাজের দাণ্ডাবাজিতে সিংহাসন ছাড়িয়া পলায়ন করিতে বাধ্য হইয়াছিলেন, ঠিক তেমনিভাবে এই ব্যভিচারী লীগ আলেম সমাজ দ্বারা বাংলার বুক হইতে বিতাড়িত হইবে তাহাতে বিন্দুমাত্র সন্দেহ নাই (cheers)। মহোদয় আর একটী মজার কথা হইল এই যে লীগের গুণ্ডারা হলের ভিতর ও বাহিরে·····

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, Order, you are not relevant, you are bringing in Court matters. I cannot allow that.

Maulana ABDUR RAZZAK : আর অতিরিক্ত ব্যয়ের কথা বিনা টাকায় আর গুণ্ডারা সেখানে যায় নাই। লীগের তহবিল থেকে গুণ্ডাদের জন্য টাকা পাঠান হইয়াছে। High Courtএ case.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Order, you are again irrelevant. If you speak on the subject-matter, I can allow you.

Maulana ABDUR RAZZAK : গুণ্ডাদের বোতল নিক্ষেপের ফলে যে বহু আলেম জখম হইয়াছিল সেজন্য আমরা মোটেই দুঃখিত নহি। মাত্র কথা হইল এই যে ঐ বোতলগুলি সরাবের বোতল বলিয়া মনে হয়। ইহাই হইতেছে পরিতাপের বিষয় যে ইহাতে আলেমের পবিত্রতা নষ্ট হইয়াছে। লীগ এমন বদমায়েসী করতে পারে দুনিয়ার ইতিহাস তা কোনদিন দেখেনি। আমি মাননীয় সুরাবর্দীকে challange দিতেছি তিনি এই বর্ত্তমান Assembly ভাঙ্গিয়া দিক এবং লীগ ও জমিয়ত ওলামাদের মধ্যে প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা চলুক কাহার majority হইবে দেখা যাইবে। Sir, এই অতিরিক্ত ব্যয়ের খাতে যে টাকার দাবী উত্থাপিত হইয়াছে এবং এই বাংলার বুকে বর্ত্তমান ministerএর গদিতে বসিয়া থাকিয়া যে সর্বনাশ করছেন তা একটা উপমা দিয়া বুঝাইয়া দিতেছি। সয়তান যেমন নামাজের মছল্লায় দাড়াইয়া থাকিলে নামাজী মছল্লায় নামাজের ব্যাঘাত ঘটিয়া থাকে তেমনভাবে এই মন্ত্রিসভা বাংলার বুকেতে চোরা বাজারের ও কন্ট্রাক্টারীর দুর্নীতি চালাইয়া বাংলার দরিদ্র, দুঃখী জনসাধারণকে নিষ্পেষিত করিয়া মারিতেছে। কারও ভাতের অভাব, কারও কাপড়ের অভাব, চিনির অভাবে এইভাবে সব মরিতেছে। আমি এই পরিষদের সদস্যগণকে জানাচ্ছি যে তারা যেন অনুগ্রহ করিয়া এই ministryকে ভেঙ্গে দেন। আপনারা আর গুণ্ডামীর সমর্থন করিবেন না।

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the speeches today have been so rambling that it is rather difficult to know where to begin. I shall try as far as possible to follow the order of the speakers. Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu has criticised every one who has had any hand in these matters. He has attacked the Food Committees on the one hand and the Subdivisional Officers on the other. He wanted to suggest that if the selection had been left to himself, it would have been much better. But I can assure him that if Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu had made the selection himself, other persons would have risen immediately and would have pointed out that he had made wrong selections and that he must have been sharing with those whom he had selected. I want to clear one misconception that seems to have arisen in the minds of members regarding the selection. I do not select any traders. I do not select the agents. I have not selected anybody. That is not the function of the Minister. I shall explain this a little bit more fully later on. Consequently, Sir, I cannot be guilty of any of the charges that have been made regarding nepotism, jobbery and what else and what not. I would like to disabuse the mind of any gentleman sitting either to the right or to the left who thinks that in the Civil Supplies Department any patronage has been extended on account of political reasons. I shall explain the general principles later on which the patronage or whatever it may be of Government is extended to people. Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu thereupon wondered why when the average price of Dinajpur rice happened to be at Rs. 11-8 at a particular time Government sold it at Rs. 15 or Rs. 16 per maund.

Government was not selling at Rs. 15 or Rs. 16. The price of rice in surplus areas was Rs. 13-8 per maund. So, he might think over this before he speaks again on the subject.

Mr. Abdul Wahed Bokainagari came next. I do not wish to comment upon his speech except to say that he has spoken truth once in his life and that is that the Ministry which was responsible for the deaths of so many people should be turned out by the neck and that Ministry has been turned out by the neck.

Dr. Sanyal has referred to various matters. As regards the grain purchase scheme, he has asked us to revise it. We are not revising the scheme, but we are improving it. There have been various loopholes in the last scheme which we are tightening up at present in the interests of the cultivator. We have not had so much experience of direct purchase that we can throw out the agents and take them over. As a matter of fact we believe that if we are to change over to direct purchases, all that we would be doing would be that we would be supplanting a few agents by a large number of agents over whom it would be very difficult to keep control and watch. We would not be able to supervise.

Dr. Sanyal has referred to a Marwari gentleman who has considerably prospered as chief agent and charges him with blackmarketing. I have absolutely no complaint against him in respect of black-marketing. There have been complaints against him regarding the selection of his agents. Whether he has prospered or not, he alone knows, but it is ceratin that this gentleman has been most efficient in his procurement policy and so far as the Department is concerned, it thinks fairly highly of him.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Do you refer to Manturam Jaipuria?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I mentioned him.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am sorry that the honourable member was referring to another gentleman. I do not know the other gentleman and I am not prepared to go into that

Dr. Sanyal has again referred to permits issued recklessly by the Department. I am constrained to say that many instances have been brought to my notice, on which I have had to take action and ultimately I have to stop all the abuses of permits and have ordered that all permits and releases that are issued by the Department for various specific reasons should not only be maintained in a register but that every reason for every permit should be put down, so that it could be scrutinised by any one concerned later.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is rather late.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, I am afraid, rather late. Orders were passed when things were brought to my notice.

Dr. Sanyal has again referred to a firm that refused to honour a permit for 9,000 bales of yarn. He has further stated that the Chairman of the Provincial Textile Board came to issue it and that he had something to do with that firm. This is the first time that I have heard of it and I am going to make an enquiry in this behalf. This is not a light matter. Permits issued by Government must be honoured by every one or he will have to give an explanation for it. I shall not allow any attempt to succeed which will defeat the policy of Government in this behalf.

As regards standard cloth, Dr. Sanyal said that when the standard cloth was unloaded on the market, it was forced on the people. As Dr. Sanyal knows, at that time, the shortage had not appeared, the standard cloth was not taken up by merchants, the stock was increasing and there seemed to be

no chance of an offtake. Had it been known that the position would become acute, we would have conserved our standard cloth to the best of our ability. The position actually was that it was apprehended that there might be deterioration as in the case of foodgrains. So, it was that policy which induced our officers to unload the standard cloth round the necks of those people.

As regards the reference that has been made to a monopoly being given to a firm and the complaint that has been made by the Naupada Chamber of Commerce, I have already started an enquiry into the matter. The file has not come up to me. I shall not allow the matter to rest there because it does appear to me to be strange that there should be room for such a complaint.

Now, Sir, coming to the question of boats, Dr. Sanyal has made, and other members have made, a rather sweeping assertion that the boats which we are really building will be a dead loss, and that we have no right to put them down as assets. He has also stated that there is no need for these boats. I myself feel a certain amount of hesitation regarding the building of these boats at the expense which it is considered necessary for them. A large number of boats—more than 10,000 large boats—were destroyed in pursuance of the denial policy and it is but proper that we should be replacing them so that the people of Bengal should be able to carry on. What we do think is that because of the destruction of a large number of boats there was alleged to be a shortage of boats. We could not find boats when we wanted them for movement purposes from here to Eastern Bengal and if we now built these boats, we could use them for movement purposes and thereafter, if the Civil Supplies arrangements disappear, dispose of to the people. As I said, Sir, I feel a certain amount of hesitation regarding the necessity for such a policy and we have requested the Government of India to send to us an experienced officer in this behalf who is making an enquiry, a thorough enquiry, from the beginning to the end, regarding the boat policy to find out whether there is necessity for these boats or not, what kinds of boats are being built, whether they are likely to be of any use to us or not and what should be done in that behalf. I can assure the House that this will be pursued with vigour and when I find that there is no necessity for these boats the boat policy will be scrapped. By that I understand that that is to be only for the future. I am certain that the boats, if already built, will not be such a dead loss on us as has been stated here

I find, Sir, that the House has greatly appreciated the poetic speech of Mr. Kamal Krishna Roy and I am sorry I shall not be able to emulate the honourable member. I only wish I had understood the high flown oratory in his poems.

Next comes Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas. He pleaded for free trade but we are not prepared to go back to free trade. We think that if we today allowed the merchants to make the purchases and move the stocks there was every likelihood again that stocks might be built up to the detriment of the people of Bengal and they will be kept there so that as soon as the trade finds that it is able to squeeze the people, they will do so wherever they possibly can.

Coming to Mr. Norton he has raised a protest against cloth control. Now, Sir, cloth control, as he knows, was introduced by the Government of India and it was introduced because the price of cloth was rising by leaps and bounds. If Mr. Norton will throw his mind to that stage he will find that every one was alarmed at the manner in which the price was going up. It is true that cloth could be obtained and was obtained at the European shops because Mr. Norton's clients do not mind what they pay provided they get good material but for the ordinary people the price was rising and Government of India stepped in and controlled cloth and as soon as control

came in it has been successful in bringing down the price at the stipulated level. That at any rate is what we see from the figures that are put up by the Government of India. Now, Sir, it is also to be considered whether we should prefer experienced trade channels instead of inexperienced trade channels and I will refer to the policy of Government in this behalf. I ask Mr. Norton and others who are traders to reconsider that position. What we have found is this that in the trade channels there are some who are certainly not very honest. I am not prepared to state that all traders are black-marketeers, that all traders are profiteers and that all traders make huge profits, but as a general rule they have not spared the public and the consumers and the more experienced the trade channel the more cleverly he has black-marketed and profiteered. I think, Sir, the time must come when we shall have to depart from the experienced trade channels to reasonable, honest and decent people who will be prepared to distribute cloth without any great profit. It may be difficult to find such people and it may be that many of them shall not be found amongst the ranks of the trade channels. So far as they have been found amongst the trade channels, we are prepared to utilise them. Mr. Norton looked at me and said what about the 1,500 watches. They were brought and released and I plead not guilty to the charge. I never heard of them and I do not know how they came and at whose instance they were released and why they were released and therefore I do not plead guilty.

Mr. H. R NORTON: On a point of information, Sir. Has the Hon'ble Minister consulted the Enforcement Branch?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It has nothing to do with the Enforcement Branch. It is being done by the Controller of India. We are, as a matter of fact, trying to link the two up and there is a recent attempt on our part to extend their jurisdiction but up till now we have not got it and I hesitate to take on more responsibility unless and until the Enforcement Branch is better organised.

Now, Sir, Mr. Upendra Nath Barman has suggested the constitution of a committee to determine the prices of rice and paddy from time to time. We have now a fixed policy, the policy of a ceiling price, and in bringing that down we are fixing a price which will not have effect until the end of May or June next. This price has been determined by several factors and not only the agriculturist has been taken into consideration but also we have taken into consideration the necessity of keeping prices at a reasonable level. In my opinion we shall not allow the price of rice to rise too high and our endeavour will be to try and see that the prices of other commodities are also brought down to help the agriculturists to buy those things. Therefore from that point of view we are trying to control the prices of other commodities and we have been able to control in the matter of kerosene oil, salt and others and I hope we shall be able to do the same as regards textiles.

I am grateful to Sir Henry Birkmyre for having drawn my attention to the fact that canvas and waterproof cloth ought to be excluded from the textile quota to Bengal. We shall certainly take note of it as one more argument in our favour in computing our textile quota and we should give it that consideration.

I come now to a speech made by Mr. Ashutosh Lahiry. I did not understand very much of what he stated. He was obviously speaking for publication in the papers tomorrow and he was making a survey of the misdeeds of the whole of India. I understood only a few words by which I gathered that he was attacking the Muslim League as a whole and that he was pouring forth his venom against the Muslim Leaguers that we are all bad people, and Muslim League being more or less synonimous with Muslims, Mr. Ashutosh Lahiry who is the Secretary of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha obviously wants that all Muslims should be eradicated

from this land but I am afraid he will not be able to see his dream realised. Along with that he also referred to communal favouritism and communal boon. With regard to this I wish to say something on the floor of the House and wish to inform everybody of the manner in which patronage and contracts are given in this department. I consider that where there is a free competition everybody comes in and where Government does not intertere every one has got a clear footing and has got the right to do whatever he possibly can. We have seen that persons who had a monopoly of one trade have had to compete with persons of other communities entering into that trade. To give you an example, in the hide trade and the biri trade the Muslims had a monopoly but the Hindus are now coming in and we welcome them. There is then the fruit trade in which the Muslims had a monopoly but we find that Hindus are coming in and we offer all good luck to them. There can be no objection when one community enters into a trade which has been in the hands of the other and when it comes to the question of Government patronage Government has got to consider that justice is done to all communities and then we have got to stand on fairness and justice whenever the question of selection or patronage comes in. Now, what would be the fairest thing for Bengal? And when you come to that question you have got to adopt a principle. If that principle be that the claims of all Bengalis as citizens of Bengal, as decent sons of Bengal, shall be considered, then what can be a better principle than this that it should be in accordance with the population basis. Here I am referring to the two major communities. I have, however, not accepted that and have started on the fifty-fifty basis. I think, Sir, by doing that I have done injustice to the Muslim community. Instead of working on the population basis I have requested all the officers to try and adjust as far as they possibly can on the communal basis and to see that everybody gets a fair deal. This matter has been left to the local officers. There are certain places in East Bengal where practically all the merchants are Muslims but I have insisted that Hindus should also have a look in. There are places in West Bengal where, Hindus have a monopoly but I have asked there that Muslims should also have a look in. But the result is not so satisfying. The result is that whereas Hindus had a look in in East Bengal, Muslims have not had a look in in West Bengal. If you take the provincial quota as a whole I am afraid you will find that the order which has been passed by me to give both the communities an equal deal has not been carried out, and the Hindus are very much in a majority.

I would place before you some specific cases just to show how we have dealt with this case of patronage, what instructions we have passed and to what extent they have been given effect to, you will see for yourself, and I hope thereafter we shall never hear any more of communal favouritism or of political patronage.

We have got Chief Agents for the purchase of rice. Of them two are Hindus, one Muslim and one European. It is possible that some may have to go, but this is the position as it is. If you realise for a moment that rice is mostly grown by the Muslim agriculturists, if you realise for a moment that the entire trade of movement of rice was in the hands of Muslims—they are the *pharias*, they are the *beparis*, they are the *aratdars* in those places mostly where rice is grown—you will realise then the injustice that has been done to the Muslim community. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The production area of Ispahanis is five times as much as that of others. The whole of Midnapore and Dinajpur is Ispahanis.) If you consider another section, namely, Stockists and Handling Agents in the mofussil areas, they are practically all Hindus and all non-Bengali Hindus. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Question.) So that so far as this Government is concerned, so far as this Ministry is concerned, we have left it entirely to our officers. None of these ever come to us for sanction. If they have anything to report they write to the Civl Supplies Commissioner or to myself and we trust that our instructions are followed.

Now, let us consider the number of those who have been given carrying contracts of movement of grains from one part of Bengal to the other and thereafter make up your mind whether there has been any case of political patronage or not:

Muslims 25: Hindus 41—of them 3 are non-Bengalees and this Government is supposed to be giving everything to Muslims to the detriment of others! Christian—1: Hindus and Muslims—7: Armenian—2: Shipping Company—2.

Let us come to the boat contractors of the Civil Supplies Department. As you know, so far as the proprietors of the companies are concerned, I have nothing to do with them and I am unable to answer whether these companies that honourable gentlemen were speaking about belong to A, B or C. I have not even bothered to look into them to find out who are the proprietors of any of these companies and I do not know whether they are companies under the Civil Supplies Department or not. Out of the boat contractors Muslims are 13, Hindus 34 of whom 14 are non-Bengalees, and one is in partnership business between a Bengalee and a non-Bengalee. But even these are no indications at all because in the value of the contracts the Hindus far excel the Muslims by having contracts of about ten times to one, and it is stated that we are giving communal patronage to the Muslims.

Handling Agents and Stockists in Calcutta—Muslims 4, Hindus 29, of whom non-Bengalee Hindus are 17, others 3.

Now, let us see what happens if we leave the matters to the trade and ask the trade to select what the trade does for itself. You may remember that we asked some Flour Association and Rice Association to select some traders. Out of 400 persons that were selected by that organisation 12 were Muslims in one case and 8 in another case. It is not possible that we shall continue to act in this mannor and even so show our face to the public.

In the selections that are made in the rationed area of shops, there are barely any Muslims and many of these shops have been rejected on such grounds on which most of the Hindu shops would have been rejected but those Hindu shops have been kept. Now, Sir, I do feel that if you want an opportunity to reject anything you always find an excuse; if you want an opportunity to keep it you always find an excuse. I merely point out to the House that so far as this Government is concerned we have allowed the officers to go on in their own way and have not interfered. If you say "Be just and do justice" and I interfere, then immediately a cry will arise that we are interfering in the interest of political patronage, that we are interfering in the interest of friends. If we do not interfere, then you say "Why do you not interfere?" So we are as a matter of fact in a cleft stick and we feel, Sir, some policy of ours will have to be adopted, some section will have to interfere in the matter to see that justice is done between the communities.

Sir, I really forgot one instance. The other day we selected 22 importers—they were selections, mind you—to import cloth from Bombay and Ahmedabad. Of these 22 importers only one was a Muslim, 21 were Hindus. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There were no other importers.)

Now, Sir, all these contracts, all this patronage that has been distributed by Government, it is not possible for me to look into, and as a matter of fact I refused to look into them as I think that the Minister only comes in if a complaint is made to him. If anybody makes a complaint and puts up a case before me that a wrong has been done or an injustice to any community or to anybody has been done, I am prepared to look into it, but I have made up my mind that I am not going to look into any individual case. Now, Sir, so far as this side is concerned what justification is there of gentlemen in the Opposition speaking about political patronage? We

have done so little of political patronage; there are a large number of people in the Opposition who are opposing us today who have got contracts from Government.

Mr. RAMIZUDDIN AHMED: Name them.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I will not name them.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Please name them.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: You cannot cast insinuations like that. You must give the names. (Uproar.) It is a lie.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: They are handling agents, they are carrying agents, they are storing agents, they are charcoal agents, and you know who they are. (Renewed uproar.)

Mr. RAMIZUDDIN AHMED: We want to hear the names.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I will not lower my dignity. I will tell you the reason why and the House will bear with me. If members of the Opposition have got these contracts, I have no grievance against them. If members on this side of the House have got contracts, I have no grievances against them either. So far as the selection of contractors is concerned, it is left to the local officers to their judgment and to their experience. If they have found certain persons suitable to carry out the obligations which Government have imposed upon them, and if by doing so they have selected some persons who happen to be in the Opposition today and who may occupy the Treasury benches tomorrow, I have absolutely no grievance against them. I say good luck to them.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the mismanagement, bungling, corruption in the department and lack of control and suppervision over the department, was then put and lost.

The motions of Maulvi Abdul Wahed Bokainagari that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100 (1) to raise a discussion about the policy regarding the construction of boats, and (2) to raise a discussion about failure of the Government to give supply of cloth to the people and yarn to the weavers and thread to the fishermen and the situation arising out of the paucity of the same, were then put and lost.

The motions of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100—(1) to raise a discussion about the policy of boat construction and corruption and wastefulness involved in the method pursued, and (2) to raise a discussion about (*i*) Government's Grain Purchase Scheme, (*ii*) the scheme for the purchase and distribution of standard cloth, (*iii*) salt-purchase policy, and (*iv*) other miscellaneous schemes for the maintenance of Civil Supplies and Consumers' goods, were then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Ashutosh Lahiri that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the huge loss on account of grain purchase scheme, was then put and lost.

The motions of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by Rs. 100—(1) to raise

a discussion about the policy of the Government to construct the boats in Bengal and (2) to raise a discussion about (*i*) the policy of the Government regarding purchase and distribution of foodgrains in Bengal; and (*ii*) the policy of the Government regarding the distribution of standard cloths, were then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Kamal Krishna Roy that the demand of Rs. 22,74,68,000 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the general policy of the Government with regard to Civil Supplies was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy that a sum of Rs. 22,74,68,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8-50 p.m. till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 24th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 24th March, 1945, at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 175 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Grant of leave to Sj. Sunirmal Dutta, a security prisoner.

***231.** (SHORT NOTICE.) **Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact—

(1) that Sj. Sunirmal Dutta, B.L., Pleader, a security prisoner now lodged in the Presidency Jail, lost his father (late lamented Babu Ballal Behari Dutta Mahasaya) on the 2nd February, 1945, and

(2) that his father was ill for some time and on his behalf Government was requested in a petition in January last to enable the said security prisoner to be present by his bedside to fulfil the last desire of the dying man to see his detainee son;

(*ii*) whether—

(1) leave was granted to the security prisoner or facilities were given him otherwise to see his dying father, or

(2) any reply was given by Government to the said petition of the dying man during his life time, or at all;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that the said bereaved security prisoner petitioned Government—

(1) asking for necessary funds to enable him to perform the funeral oblations (*sradh* ceremony) of his father, and

(2) for any reasonable time leave to be present at such ceremony at his Calcutta residence at 5/2, Cornfield Road, Ballygunge, to be performed on the 4th March, 1945, and also to see his grief-stricken mother of over 70 years of age, now lying ill and prostrate;

(*iv*) whether any of the facilities asked for in (*iii*) above have been granted him;

(*v*) whether it is a fact that Government in their Home Department memorandum No. 2651H.S., dated the 23rd February, 1945, have informed the security prisoner and his relations to the effect that "the performance of the *sradh* of his father is not obligatory on him"; and

(*vi*) whether Government have any authority based on any—

(1) text of the Hindu Smritis or Dharmasastra, or

(2) British Indian Judicial decisions, or

(3) any British Indian Legislative enactments for the said injunction of the Home Department referred to in (*v*) above?

(*b*) If the answer to (*vi*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the precise text and reference thereof?

(*c*) If the answer to (*vi*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on whose legal opinion the said injunction of the Home Department is based and what is the precise text of that opinion?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of rectifying the action of the Home Department and giving him any redress?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) (1) and (*iii*) Yes.

(2) No such petition was received.

(*ii*)(1) Government had no information about the father's illness before he actually died.

(2), (*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

(*iv*) Orders were issued for granting the prisoner reasonable facilities for the performance of the *sradh* inside the jail as prescribed under the rules.

(*v*) A copy of the Government Order in question is placed on the Library Table.

(*vi*) The main function of the *sradh* ceremony of deceased parents is generally performed in Bengal by their eldest living son, if not otherwise incapacitated. The rites of the younger sons can be easily performed within the jail for which reasonable facilities were offered to the prisoner. The order issued in this case was not meant to be an injunction binding on the prisoner.

(*d*) He was offered reasonable facilities to perform the ceremony inside the jail and I do not consider any further action at this stage necessary.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who advised the Government that rites of younger sons can be easily performed within the jail?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I think that has been the practice for a long time. There is nothing new about it.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who advised Government that that could be done?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I cannot tell you just now. But as this has been the practice for a long time I presume that we have been properly advised.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Government consider the desirability of consulting competent opinion, Hindu Shasfric opinion, whether *Sradh* by any son can be performed?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I shall certainly have an enquiry made.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*a*)(*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for not receiving this petition though it was actually sent and addresed to the Home Department?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As far as my information goes, no petition was received. It is quite possible that it might have seen mislaid.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to do something so that such important and urgent petitions cannot be missing and they reach the destination?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I will discuss this question with the officers concerned and see whether we can devise some method by which this kind of petitions may have priority and reach the Joint Secretary immediately on their arrival.

Release of Mrs. Labanya Das Gupta and Miss Shaila Sen on grounds of health.

*232. **Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mrs. Labanya Das Gupta and Miss Shaila Sen, B.A., B.T., have recently been transferred from the Dinajpur Jail to the Presidency Jail for medical treatment by specialists, and if so, when they were brought there;

(b) what are the diseases they are suffering from and for how long;

(c) when they applied for such transfer and when the Superintendent, Dinajpur Jail, recommended for such transfer;

(d) whether they have been admitted into the Medical College; and if not, why not;

(e) what arrangements have been made for the treatment and diet;

(f) what are their present condition of health, their weights on admission to jails and the present weight; and

(g) whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of releasing them for reasons of health?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (a) Yes, on the 11th October and the 4th November, 1944, respectively.

(b) Mrs. Labanya Das Gupta has been suffering from chronic cholecystitis for the last 10 years and Miss Shaila Sen from chronic dyspepsia for about 2½ years.

(c) They applied for transfer in June-July, 1943, and the Superintendent of the Dinajpur Jail, too, recommended their transfer.

(d) No. They were under the treatment of the Physician Specialist and Mrs. Labanya Das Gupta has only been recommended for Barium meal and X'ray examination at the Medical College Hospital.

(e) Mrs. Das Gupta is getting palliative treatment and diet pending her examination in the Medical College Hospital. Miss Sen is also getting medicinal and dietetic treatment as recommended by the Specialist.

(f) Mrs. Das Gupta is keeping well at present. Her weight on admission to Dinajpur Jail was 91 lbs., weight on admission to the Presidency Jail was 114 lbs., and present weight is 115 lbs. Miss Sen is getting better. Her weight on admission to the Dinajpur Jail was 98 lbs., weight on admission to the Presidency Jail was 87 lbs., and present weight is 91 lbs.

(g) No.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In view of the fact that the war situation is considerably looking up, will the Government consider the desirability of releasing forthwith Mrs. Labanya Das Gupta and Miss. Shaila Sen and all other ailing security lady prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to the statement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister the other day in reply to cut motions on the subject.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (c), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the reasons for the delay of about 1½ years in giving effect to the recommendations of the Superintendent of the Dinajpur Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know exactly the date. The Jail Superintendent recommended transfer but the transfer was applied for in June-July, 1943, and sanction of Government had to be obtained. As soon as Government felt that the transfer was necessary the order was passed.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Are we to take it that the Superintendent's recommendation who is also a competent medical authority is not mandatory on the Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is not mandatory on Government. But certainly there were also some examinations which Government had to undertake. First of all these prisoners jointly applied for permission to undergo homeopathic treatment and after that they wanted to have allopathic treatment if they could get the best medical aid, and when this question was examined by Government they sanctioned their transfer to the Presidency Jail so that they could be examined by the Physician Specialist.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*f*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that besides the disease mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister in reply to the question she is suffering for the last one month from acute pain in her ears?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I would ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to at once enquire into the matter as to whether their diseases are showing signs of aggravation?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the recent political changed situation in Assam which is very near to Burma and in view of the fact that they are going to release the political prisoners, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to revise the policy that was referred to just now and that was announced in the statement of the Chief Minister and release forthwith all the ailing security prisoners and especially the lady prisoners ailing in the jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The policy adopted by the Chief Minister is more progressive than that of the province mentioned by the honourable member, and I will draw the attention of the honourable member to the fact that it is only recently that Assam proposes to lift the ban whereas the Chief Minister here announced the withdrawal of ban in four districts of Bengal before any such announcement was made in the neighbouring province.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that in the province of Assam there are also ailing security prisoners of this description still in jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of. There might or might not be. But I believe that they have no terrorist prisoners of the type we have in Bengal.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Malpractice in issue and distribution of quinine in Murshidabad district.

74. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of Government was drawn to certain malpractice in the issue and distribution of quinine in the district of Murshidabad in 1943;

(b) whether any investigation was made into the allegations made or circumstances revealed in that connection;

(c) what were the results of the investigation, if held;

(d) whether it is a fact that a number of officials and non-officials were found to have been involved in the malpractice; and

(e) what action, if any, has been taken to punish the offenders in this connection and to recover the losses suffered by Government, if any?

MINISTER in charge of PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) to (e) The cases are under consideration of Government.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the investigation was started and when the decision was made?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I cannot give the exact date, but the District Magistrate reported two cases.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the two Muslim junior officers employed in the Murshidabad district were found by the investigating police to have been involved in the malpractices revealed in connection with the quinine distribution?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, there are two cases—one against a Hindu and the other against a Muslim.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the police having first found certain gentlemen guilty reported to Government but Government had to send back the report and demanded a second enquiry because some officials of the Government were involved in it?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No. I can tell the honourable member that as regards one case the report of the C.I.D. is with the Government and the opinion of the Advocate-General has been secured, and he is going to be prosecuted. As regards the other, a report has been submitted and it is still under the consideration of the Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When was the report obtained?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in one of the cases under a false permit purported to have been issued by the distributing authority and on the basis of which the amount of money was deposited in the Treasury for obtaining release for quinine which was shown as distributed in jail; for the figure "9" the figure "21" was substituted?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I am not aware.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that subsequent police investigation revealed that there was an exaggeration in the quantity of quinine supposed to have been paid for and that the quantity that was taken delivery of at the jail was much less?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have already told the honourable member that I am not aware of the details. I have nothing further to add.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the nature of the malpractices obtained in the two cases that have been sent?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The notice was there. The attention of the Government was drawn to certain malpractices in the issue and distribution of quinine.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: As I have already said, I have nothing further to add.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Does the Hon'ble Minister know anything about the detail?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why he did not come prepared with the answer when the question was there?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: As this matter is *sub judice* I have nothing further to add.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any matter has been sent to the court to enable him to say that it is *sub judice*?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: It is in the way of going to the court.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then it is not *sub judice*?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: It is not in the stage of enquiry either. The enquiry has been finished, the report has been submitted and the gentleman is going to be prosecuted.

Dr. NLINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any of the cases is *sub-judice*?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have nothing further to add.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that as a result of the investigation several misdeeds of a particular Sub-Deputy Collector were revealed, who was responsible for not merely quinine distribution but also for distribution of other commodities?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I am not concerned with other commodities, but for malpractices in the distribution the person concerned is going to be prosecuted.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Have Government received any report from Mr. R. C. Pollard who was the Superintendent of Police at that time in regard to the maldistribution of quinine and other commodities?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have already said that only two quinine cases were reported by the District Magistrate of Murshidabad.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Have Government received any report relating to the malpractices in the distribution of quinine from the police of Murshidabad?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I am concerned only with the two quinine cases, about which Government have got a report from the District Magistrate and none from the police.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why is Government not taking early steps for bringing the offenders to book?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No step is possible to be taken without a thorough investigation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long it will be necessary for Government to make a thorough investigation?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have already said, one is being prosecuted and the case of the other is under examination.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is the period referred to in regard to the malpractice practised?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: As I have already said, I cannot give the exact date. I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it not a fact that it is more than two years old?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, when he has given a clear answer it is no use putting these questions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, his clear answers are that Government propose to proceed against the malpractices in these two cases, which are hanging fire for more than two years.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever it may be, he has said that he has nothing further to add.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Department received the notice of this question before the investigation or enquiry had commenced in regard to the malpractice that has been referred to by the Parliamentary Secretary?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: So far as I know, the notice of this question was received after the case was taken up by the C.I.D.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Questions over.

Adjournment motion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I sent in a notice of an adjournment motion regarding the assault on security prisoners in the Rajshahi Central Jail on the 21st.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your motion has been received and it is receiving my attention. I will request you to see me in my chamber and I will discuss the matter with you.

Short notice question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to give notice of a very urgent short notice starred question relating to appointment of members of the Opposition and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will have the guts to give what reply he has got.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, this is not the form to give notice of a short notice question; you must do it in proper form.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am giving the notice here and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will accept it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not the usual form, Dr. Sanyal. I cannot allow you to proceed in this way.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, certain insinuations were made and I seek your protection.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have repeatedly requested you that if you have got anything to say you are to inform the Speaker earlier without making any such attempt to bring in matters.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How can I bring it to the Speaker? It is for the House. It was under your chairmanship that this happened and we want such information in that regard. We demand that it is treated as an urgent one—a short notice—and an answer be given.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not allowing you.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am giving you short notice. I have written out the form.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Give it to the office.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You give it to the office. We hope the Hon'ble Minister will accept the short notice.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

43—Industries—Industries.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.31,16,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I take it that the short notice will be taken by your office?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With the permission of the House I am changing the order only to accommodate Mr Datta. I propose to take Mr. Datta's motions first—items 22 and 32 together.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the conduct of the Government in not giving proper training in tanning to the Rishi community (*muchis*) in the Province of Bengal specially in the district of Tippera, who have been very seriously affected by the last famine and the Government have not done anything for their rehabilitation as a part of their Rehabilitation Programme.

I further move that the demand of Rs.31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in declaring the Bengal Branches of the All-India Spinners' Association as illegal and in not withholding the ban even this day in view of the change of the political situation of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to motion No. 22 it is known to all of us—at least to many of us—that the population of the Rishi community in the province of Bengal is about 11 lakhs. It is also known to all that the people of the Rishi community are the most depressed people in the province—economically, socially and politically—and they have been depressed for thousands of years, but no attempt has been made to improve their condition. For these 11 lakhs of people there is only one tanning institute in Calcutta but in that tanning institute, I am told

and I am quite sure it is a fact, there is no student belonging to the Rishi caste but most of the students belong to the Muslim community and the Hindu community other than the Rishis (*muchis*). There are only 10 or 12 students who get stipends in the tanning institute. Stipends and scholarships should be given to the Rishi people and tanning institutes should be started in areas which are inhabited by the Rishi people in order to improve the miserable condition of these people.

In the district of Tippera there is a large number of Rishis especially in the Brahmanbaria subdivision, and I know their condition. I know, Sir, during the last famine many of them died. I am told that Rs. 55 lakhs was spent under the rehabilitation scheme in the year 1944-45. I want to know from the Government whether a single pie has been spent for the Rishi community out of this 55 lakhs of rupees. Moreover, 55 lakhs for the rehabilitation programme for the province is nothing. At page 370 of the Blue Book you will find that under Rehabilitation Programme there are—

		Rs.
Free grants to artisans	...	5,00,000
Free grants in the form of raw materials	...	15,00,000
Sale of materials at cost price	...	5,00,000
Loans in the form of raw materials	.	15,00,000
Sale of materials at cheap rates	..	15,00,000

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will be astonished to learn that the provision of the Rehabilitation Programme has been omitted in the next budget. Do the Government think that there is no necessity for the Rehabilitation Programme? Do the supporters of the Government think that there is no necessity for free grants to artisans, that there is no necessity for free grants in the form of raw materials, that there is no necessity for sale of materials at cost price, that there is no necessity for loans in the form of raw materials and that there is no necessity for sale of materials at cheap rates? Many artisans do not get their articles in the market and have to purchase them from the black market. The cobblers have to purchase their articles from the black market. I would ask the Government to make a provision at least under the Rehabilitation Programme so that these artisans, viz., the cobblers of whom I am speaking today, get necessary articles for their business at cost price and at controlled price, that they get raw materials at cheap cost. Why Government have altogether omitted any provision for Rehabilitation Programme so far as these Rishis are concerned? Why no money has been spent on their account as they are the most depressed, socially and economically in this province, or I should say, in the continent of Asia?

Sir, there is one thing which I should mention here. In answer to questions Government said that a Peripatetic Demonstration Centre was started in the province but as honourable members are aware this Peripatetic Demonstration Centre go to the locality, stay there for one month, two months or at the most three months. You know, Sir, so far as the Rishi community is concerned, cent. per cent. of them are uneducated. Not a single one of them really has got any education and can be called literate. So, Sir, what good can be done by this Peripatetic Demonstration Centre to the people in the course of 15 days or one month or in the course of three months at the most? They can do no good. In the areas where there are Rishis tanning institutions should be started and provision should be made for that.

Then, Sir, I beg to submit that there is only one school for teaching shoe-making or leather-making in the city of Calcutta. I am told and I learn on good authority that not a single student belonging to the Rishi community is in this shoe-making and leather-making school. It is a miserable thing for them. Sir, I feel very strongly in the matter. What was the occupation of these Rishis (*muchis*)? The occupation of the Rishis used to be to strip off the hides from the carcasses, from the dead bodies of the

animals, and then to dry them with some materials. These hides are to be dried with some materials, and because they have not got any training in tanning, they are suffering. Previously they used to get hides practically free of cost, because the carcasses were thrown away, but now-a-days the Muslim community have found a profitable business in keeping the skin and selling it to the Rishis. The margin of profit that the Rishis get now-a-days is practically very small and negligible. Unless immediate steps are taken, the whole community will die in the course of a few years. As a matter of fact, Government did not give any special attention for improving the condition of the Rishis of the Province of Bengal.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as Industries are concerned, you will find that in the budget estimate for the year 1944-45 there is a provision of Rs.85,500 under the sub-head "Scholarships". I would like to draw the pointed attention of the supporters of the Ministry that even the full amount of that insignificant sum of Rs. 85,500 could not be spent, because in the revised estimate you will find a provision of only Rs.76,000. This year, I mean in the year 1945-46, a provision of Rs.72,400 has been made. Sir, Government thought it fit that the provision of Rs.85,500 in the year 1944-45 should be reduced, and as a matter of fact, it has been reduced.

Sir, I also want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister and the members opposite who are supporting the Ministry to another significant fact. There was a provision of Rs.19,01,850 in the budget estimate of 1944-45 under the sub-head "Grants-in-aid". You will be astonished to learn, Sir, that this sum of Rs. 19,01,850 towards the grants-in-aid to schools imparting education for the industrial development of the country could not be spent by Government. They only spent Rs.3,01,060. This is a ridiculously low sum compared to the original provision for a higher sum of Rs. 19 lakhs and odd. There was a provision of 19 lakhs of rupees in the year 1944-45; it was revised to a ridiculously lower sum in that particular year, and again a reduced provision has been made in the budget estimate for 1945-46. I want to know why Government have made a smaller provision this year. Does not the Government think that there was room for the development of the cottage industries in this country? Sir, Mahatma Gandhi started an All-India Spinners Association in order to develop the cottage industries in this Province. He is a *rishi* and so he wanted to save the country from nakedness and ruin, but unfortunately the people of the country have not responded to his call. This All-India plan for the development of cottage industries has failed, as it is bound to fail without the help of the Government. The Government which cannot spend the full amount of money after providing a sum for the development of industries stands condemned.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to another point with regard to the All-India Spinners Association. This Association has been declared banned by an order of the Government of India and its branches have been declared unlawful by the Government of Bengal. I come from the district of Tippera and I know what has been done by the All-India Spinners Association there. A large number of spinners of the Khadi Pratisthan in Barkamta in the Sadar subdivision of the district have been arrested and put into jail. Not only that, Sir; there are Khadi Pratisthan centres in the outlying areas of the Tippera district and all the spinners and workers of those Pratisthans have also been arrested and imprisoned. Sir, we are talking of cloth famine, but still Government do not think that the ban on the All-India Spinners Association should be withdrawn. Sir, while we say that there is a provision for starting a spinning factory in Bengal and the scheme is under the consideration of Government, the weavers are dying for want of yarn. Sir, I submit, that Government should take immediate steps to withdraw the ban on the spinners associations. In view of the political situation of the country, Government may

say, that that would not be possible. But I do not know how these workers are connected with the political situation. Even admitting for arguments sake that they are connected with the political situation, I must say that the situation has changed and I repeat that the ban on the All-India Spinners Association should be withdrawn before long. Sir, one word more and I have finished. Textile licences are not being granted and difficulties are being experienced in getting cotton.

With these few words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House. I again request the Government to try to improve the condition of the Rishis for they are the most depressed community in Bengal and in India.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the Rehabilitation Programme.

Sir, with the ushering of Provincial Autonomy under the Constitution Act of 1935, high hopes were raised about the possible expansion of activities of the nationbuilding departments and of liberal provision made by the Provincial Government for an all round development of provincial resources both human and material. Provincial Autonomy has been in operation for eight years now, but an evaluation of progress made during this period will show that while the normal ordinary budget of Bengal has almost doubled allocations for the nation-building departments have remained more or less the same and that the old policy of either starving these departments or doling out funds is being continued. The increased taxation that the Province has been called upon to bear has gone to swell these departments of the Government to which axe could have been properly applied. The Industries Department has been no exception to this state of affairs, as would be evident from the fact that the ordinary budget of the Industries proper has remained more or less stationary round Rs. 16 lakhs. Even the major portion of this meagre grant is being eaten up by administration expenses with the result that very little has been done for the industrial development of the province. Sir, when the War broke out in Europe, most of us felt that the temporary withdrawal of foreign competition would give a great impetus to the industrial development of the country. But, generally speaking our hopes have been frustrated, for just as war had created opportunities for Indian Industries, it also created a number of difficulties in their way. Bottle-neck to industrial development has been provided by an inadequate release of raw materials like coal, chemicals, minerals, etc., to these industries who have been catering to the civilian consumers. Shortage of transport provides another bottle-neck for the Indian industries. Handicapped as the Indian Industries have been due to these factors, they could not make progress to the extent that is desirable and as one would expect because of lack of foreign competition. I appreciate that in these matters the Provincial Governments are not the final authority as most of the controls have been instituted by the Government of India. But a large number of industrial concerns and also representative organisations of different industries must have approached the Industries Department for giving them relief in so far as release of necessary raw materials, coal, and transport were concerned. I should like to know what the department has done for effecting improvement in these directions. Even if there had been no such requests, the Industries Department should have on its own initiative taken the matter in right earnest with the Government of India to provide relief to industries as far as practicable in the circumstances. So far as I am aware, the department has done nothing of the kind and has been following a *laissez faire* attitude in this respect and allowed itself to rest with the smug belief that the industries will manage the affairs for themselves. Perhaps the Industries Department has no conscience to stifle. Thus we

find ourselves today in a miserable plight of poverty in the midst of plenty. Despite large resources the country remains industrially backward. Whatever prosperity that we see in connection with the industries is only artificial and confined to a small section of industries who have been supplying orders from the Government for war purposes. The galloping inflation that we find to-day is also to a certain extent responsible for this feeling of prosperity which at bottom still remains artificial. There has been scarcely any appreciable addition to the industrial potentiality of the country. The result has been that with a diversion of a greater proportion of the productive capacity to meet war needs, there has been a serious shortage in the supply of goods for civilian consumption. Scarcity of civilian consumer goods combined with a greatly inflated currency has in its turn led to a steep rise in prices. There has been no doubt about some amount of hoarding and profiteering which again derives sustenance from the short supply, but the position is mainly one of actute shortage of supply of goods and of inflated currency. To take a specific instance, cloth famine is now raging in the province. This shortage of cloth has given the Government of India a handle to import a large amount of cotton cloth mainly from the United Kingdom. I have read the statement of the Hon'ble Member but this is not the place to expose the fallacy of his argument. Import has been sought to be justified as a measure for the benefit of the consumers. But have the Government enquired into the real causes of this shortage? Nearly two-thirds of the existing productive capacity of the Indian cotton mill industry is now engaged to meet Government order. Even the balance that has been left to meet the requirements of the civilian market could not be worked to their fullest capacity because of short supply of coal and necessary chemicals released to the cotton mills. If the looms that are now working to supply war orders had been released to meet the civilian needs, and the cloth that is being imported were diverted for the military, then this situation of acute cloth scarcity in the country would not have perhaps arisen at all. I should like to know what the Government have done to get the looms that are now engaged in war work released to meet civilian demands. Coming to Bengal in particular, the province has always been dependent for its cloth supply on outside sources. This would be realised from the fact that while the normal production of Bengal mills and of the handlooms within the prvince amounted to about Rs. 5 crores, cotton goods valued at about Rs. 15 cores were being imported into this province. At present there are about 30 cotton mills working in this province and there is still scope for three times the number, if the province is to meet its entire demands from internal supply. Already the post-war plans are being laid and the Government of India have introduced a system of registration of capital goods that may be imported in the post-war period. The Government of India are also contemplating regulation of the development of industries on a regional basis. It is, therefore, time that every province should lay down its post-war plans of industrial development and to make all arrangements for an early implementation of their scheme. I shall, therefore, be glad to be enlightened as to the steps which have up till now been taken by the Department in this direction.

Industrialists all over the country have expressed their apprehension in regard to the Government of India's proposal for the importation of consumer goods. It has been recently stated in the press that arrangements have been made for the importation of goods worth £60 million. Such imports may be welcome as anti-inflationary measure calculated to ease the essential civilian needs like drugs and medicines, but such imports should not be at the expense of existing Indian industries. Already there is a growing feeling among the consuming public that the Indian industries and businessmen are not playing their part by the consumers. But the lay public are not acquainted with the difficulties under which Indian industries have to work and the causes of short supply of goods in the market.

Such a state of affairs combined with importation of foreign goods appears to have a sinister significance. This feeling of the consumers may be fully exploited for the purpose of pushing sales of foreign goods into India. His Majesty's Government have made it perfectly clear that the post-war commercial policy will be one of intensified export drive. Such a drive would be made at the cost of consumers in the home country where controls would be so regulated as would not permit the full restoration of their pre-war living standards, not to speak of any enhancement, till the export markets are captured. Most of the goods exported to the foreign markets will be more or less subsidised. It is therefore reasonable that steps should be taken for the protection and development of Indian industries against foreign imports. The plea of consumers' interest is hardly sufficient to justify the proposed import of consumer goods. Just as the natives of the exporting countries will have to undergo sacrifies in order that their prewar export markets may be regained, so also Indian consumers may be asked to undergo temporary abstinence in order that the natural resources of the country may be exploited to the full, for ultimately raising the national income and standard of living in India.

The Government have instituted a Survey Committee to assess the industrial possibilities of the province some 6 or 7 years before but till now the Committee have not submitted its report. The Post-War Reconstruction Committee that has been set up by the Government is working in a leisurely fashion, while considerable advance has been made by other provinces in this direction who have already submitted their plans to the Government of India. This is one of the instances that will show the moribund way in which the department is functioning, the department which is said to exist for the encouragement of industrial development in the province.

Coming now to the small and cottage industries, I am told that most of the industries are suffering from want of supply of raw materials. To mention a few, the handloom weavers are sitting idle for want of yarn supply. So is the case with cotton hosiery industry too. Brass and bell metal industry is in a similar plight. What the department has done to provide relief in these directions? It is very often said that some Rs.9-10 crores worth of cottage industry products have been supplied to the Directorate-General of Supply through the Department of Industries. This fact is very often brandished by the department as giving encouragement to small and cottage industries. But have the Government ever enquired what has been the share of the artisans in the total pool and how much of this sum has been appropriated by middlemen, most of whom are set up creatures and firms between the artisans and the purchasing authority? Again, a budget provision was made for Rs.55 lakhs for the current year for relief and rehabilitation of the famine stricken people of the province. At the time the grant was made it was hoped that this sum would be so utilised as would, while providing for relief measures to the people, be of great help in rehabilitating the small and cottage industries so that the industries might carry on unaided in the post-war period. But the entire sum has been spent in an unplanned way and the result has been that the money was made to yield not even half the service, which could have been rendered by a policy of judicious distribution of funds. The position of those industries remains practically where they were before. The doling out of funds to these industries has helped very little to rehabilitate themselves.

With these words, Sir, I move the cut motion.

Mr. Shah SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to develop the textile industry in the province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, বাংলা Governmentএর শিল্প বিভাগ বহুদিন হ'তে এদেশে আছে। কিন্তু বাংলার বস্ত্র-শিল্পের প্রতি Government সম্পূর্ণ উদাসীন। তাই বস্ত্র-শিল্পের কোন উন্নতি সাধিত হয় নাই। Governmentএর বস্ত্র-শিল্পপ্রতিষ্ঠান স্থাপনের ও বস্ত্র-শিল্প প্রসারের কোন scheme নাই এবং আমি বলতে বাধ্য হয়েছি শিল্প বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী বাংলার বস্ত্র-শিল্পের প্রসারের পথে সম্পূর্ণ প্রতিবন্ধক হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে। Sir, এই যুদ্ধের পরিস্থিতিতে প্রত্যেক দেশ ও দেশের শিল্প কলা বিভাগ দেশবাসীকে যথেষ্ট সাহায্য করিতেছেন। কিন্তু আজ বাংলার শিল্প-মন্ত্রী খাজা সাহাবুদ্দীনকে জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে এই বাংলার জনসাধারণের লক্ষ লক্ষ ও কোটি কোটি টাকা খরচ করে যে শিল্প বিভাগ পালিত ও প্রসারিত হয়ে আসছে সেই শিল্প বিভাগ বাংলার জনসাধারণকে এক খণ্ড কাপড় ও প্রয়োজনীয় অন্যান্য শিল্প দ্রব্য দিতে সক্ষম হয়েছে কি? Sir, মোটেই সক্ষম হয় নাই—বাংলার শিল্প-মন্ত্রী এই বস্ত্রাভাবের দুর্দিনে বাংলা দেশের কোন নরনারীকে কাপড় দিয়ে সাহায্য করতে পারেন নাই এবং শিল্প বিভাগ অন্যান্য ব্যাপারেও আজ বাঙ্গালীকে ও বাংলার লোককে কোন সাহায্য করতে পারেন নাই। ইংল্যাণ্ড ও আমেরিকায় অন্যান্য দেশ যেখানে আজ যুদ্ধের ময়দান, যেখানে মারামারি ও বোমার ওপর বোমা, রক্তারক্তি, সেখানে তাদের এত বিপদের ভিতরেও সেই সমস্ত দেশের Government Industries ও দেশের কুটীরশিল্প সে দেশবাসীকে সব সময় প্রচুর সাহায্য করিতেছেন। Sir, আজ বাংলাদেশের শিল্প বিভাগ দেশের কাপড়ের ও অন্যান্য দ্রব্যের চাহিদা মিটাইতে সম্পূর্ণরূপে অক্ষম ও ক্লীব হয়ে পড়েছে। বাংলাদেশকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট শিল্প বিভাগ কোন রকম সাহায্য করতে পারে নাই। এই অবস্থাতে অকর্মণ্য শিল্প বিভাগের নামে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ কখনও পাস হতে পারে না। শিল্প বিভাগ যখন সম্পূর্ণ অচল হয়ে পড়েছে তখন সেই বরাদ্দের টাকা কখনও মঞ্জুর হতে পারে না। কারণ এই টাকা সম্পূর্ণ মাননীয় মন্ত্রী ও তাঁহার আশ্রিত এবং ডাইরেক্টার ও আত্মীয়স্বজনের পেটে হজম হবে দেশের কোন উপকার হবে না। আমি বহু পূর্বে Governmentকে পরামর্শ দিয়াছিলাম যে যদি বাংলার শিল্পের উন্নতি করতে হয়, বেকার-সমস্যার সমাধান করতে হয়, কাপড়ের অভাব দূর করতে হয় তা'হলে অপব্যয় ও আশ্রিতবাৎসল্য না দেখিয়ে প্রত্যেক বিভাগে একটা করে কাপড়ের কল স্থাপন করা হউক এবং ক্রমান্বয়ে সেই কাপড়ের কলকারখানা-গুলি বিস্তৃত করে দেওয়া হউক। কিন্তু মন্ত্রিসভা, স্যার, করবেন কেন? মন্ত্রিসভা যে ক্লাইভ ষ্ট্রীট্, বড়বাজার ও কলুটোলার দাস। আমার সে কথায় কর্ণপাত করেন নাই। Governmentএর পরিচালক যারা, মন্ত্রী যারা, তারা যদি এ বিষয়ে অগ্রণী না হয় তাহ'লে বাংলা তাহার ছয় কোটি দুই লক্ষ অধিবাসীকে কোন বিষয়েই সাহায্য করিতে পারিবে না। বাংলার শিল্প-মন্ত্রী খাজা সাহাবুদ্দীন, তিনি এখানে উপস্থিত, তার কোন শিল্পজ্ঞান আছে কিনা সেটা গভীর সন্দেহের বিষয়। তার দ্বারা বাংলার শিল্পের কোন উন্নতি হতে পারে না। আজ খাজা সাহাবুদ্দীন শিল্প বিভাগের ভার নিয়ে তাতে corruption, bribery ঢুকিয়েছেন, আশ্রিতবাৎসল্য ঢুকিয়েছেন। খাজা সাহাবুদ্দীনকে জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে বাংলা সরকার ও তাহার অর্থ কি কাহারও parents' property যে তারা বাংলার কোটী কোটী টাকা Sir, এই শিল্প বিভাগের নামে জনসাধারণের স্বার্থের দোহাই দিয়ে তিনি নিজে ও নিজের আত্মীয়স্বজন, যত আছে সবকে কণ্ট্রাক্টরী, sub-contract ইত্যাদি দিচ্ছেন। যেমন, খাজা সাহাবুদ্দিনের নিকট আত্মীয়, পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী নওয়াবজাদা নছরুল্লার পত্নী ও মিঃ সৈয়দ আব্দুল ছলিমের (এম, এল, এ) ভগ্নি জাহানারা বেগম। মিঃ ছলিমের পত্নী সুফিয়া খাতুন, মিঃ সাহাবুদ্দিনের স্ত্রী ফারহাত বানু বাংলার বোট কণ্ট্রাক্টর মধ্যে অন্যতম। মিঃ সাহাবুদ্দীনের সম্পর্কিত ভ্রাতা নওয়াবজাদা আহছানউল্লাহ বোট কণ্ট্রাক্টর। মিঃ এম, এ, ছলিম, ও মিঃ ছলিমের নিকট আত্মীয় মিঃ এ, রেজা, মিঃ ছলিমের ভ্রাতা মিঃ সাহেব আলম, ছলিমের নিকট আত্মীয় নওয়াবজাদা হাফিজউল্লা, মিঃ সাহাবুদ্দিনের নিকট আত্মীয় খাজা আশরাফ বোট্ কণ্ট্রাক্টার।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot use that expression "parents' property" and all other things like that.

Mr. Shah SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI : আমি Boat Contractorএর list পড়ছি।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, order. I refer the honourable member to the motion itself. It is to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to develop the textile industry in the province. It is very very limited in scope. (Voices from the Opposition Benches: He is within his rights to mention about boats.) Order, order. I would again refer the honourable members to the motion itself. It is very unreasonable that the honourable members are challenging the authority of the chair.

Mr. Shah SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI : Sir, আমি industries in general বলছি। মিঃ সাহাবুদ্দীনের ভাগিনের খাজা পেয়ার লেভলী।

Mr. I. A. CLARK : On a point of order, Sir. Is it not the rule of the House that when you are on your feet, the member who is addressing the House should resume his seat.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes.

Mr. Shah SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble সাহাবুদ্দীন আর একটী কোম্পানী নিজের নামে খুলেছেন। Bengal Industry fundএর টাকা নিয়ে তিনি আত্মসাৎ করবার জন্য তাঁর আত্মীয়স্বজন নিয়ে তার স্ত্রী প্রভৃতির নামে অন্যান্য সমস্ত কোম্পানী গঠন করে সেই টাকা-গুলি আত্মসাৎ করতেছেন। Bengal Industriesএর নামে যে টাকার বাজেট আজ এখানে উপস্থিত হয়েছে তা যদি পাস হয়, তাহলে এই বাজেটের বরাদ্দ টাকা কখনও জনসাধারণের জন্য ব্যয় হবে না। তা ওঁদের স্বার্থের জন্য খরচ হবে। Hon'ble খাজা সাহাবুদ্দীনকে আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে আপনারা বাংলার মুসলমান সমাজকে এমন কোন জিনিষ দান করেছেন তার বিনিময়ে বাংলার মুসলমান সমাজের কাছে আপনারা এই আবদার করতে পারেন। বাংলার মুসলমান সমাজের সর্বনাশ করেছেন, আপনাদের নিজের স্বার্থ রক্ষা করতেছেন। উড়ে এসে বাংলার মুসলমান সমাজের ঘাড়ের উপর জুড়ে বসে তাদের আশা ভরসা সমস্ত চুষবার করে, তাদের ভবিষ্যৎকে ধ্বংস করে আজ আপনারা আপনাদের আধিপত্য ও রাজত্ব বাংলাদেশের উপর স্থাপন করতে চান। Sir, Textile Departmentএর কর্মচারী সম্বন্ধে একটী কথা বলি। আমাদের নোয়াখালীতে আলী হায়দার নামে একজন Textile Supervisor আছে। চৌমোহানী, চাতারপাইয়া, জয়াগ, সোনাইমুড়ি ইত্যাদি বাজারের একচ্ছত্র মালিক। দোকানদার ও খরিদ্দার কেহই রেহাই পাইতেছে না। ডাইনে, বামে, ঘুষ আদায় করিতেছে কর্তৃপক্ষকে জানাইয়াও কোন প্রতিকার পাওয়া যায় না। মিঃ আলি হায়দার বলে থাকে যে তোমাদের Hon'ble Ministerরা যদি ঘুষ খেতে পারে, তাহলে, আমরা চুনা পুঁটি, ঘুষ না নিয়ে পারি কি করে? যদি পারেন এই Ministerদের ঘুষ বন্ধ করুন। এই জন্য আজ সমস্ত মোছলেম ভারত লীগের নামে চালিত এই স্বার্থপরতার বিরুদ্ধে, এই corruptionএর বিরুদ্ধে বিদ্রোহ ঘোষণা আরম্ভ করছে। Sir, এই অবস্থায় মুসলিম লীগের নামে, জাতীয় প্রতিষ্ঠানের নামে, মুসলিম লীগের বড় কর্তারা যে অপকর্ম করতেছে তার পরিণামে আজ লীগ ও corruption পৃথক করার সুবিধা নেই।

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about Sericulture Department (for creating a department for sericulture and policy regarding silk control).

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs.31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about failure of Government policy in the matter of control of silk.

Sir, in January, 1942, the Government of India decided to procure good silk for the purpose of parachutes and under the Defence of India Act there was the Silk Control Order. Since then Government have been purchasing silk at controlled rate from the districts of Malda and Murshidabad mainly, but the Government do not pay adequate price for the silk. Therefore, Government do not get required quantity of silk—it is being sent to the black market as usual because Government pay only Rs. 75 to Rs. 80 per seer for "D" grade silk whereas if the silk is taken to Bihar or any other province it is sold at Rs.140 to Rs.150. Therefore, Government cannot procure sufficient quantity of silk as they require for the purpose of parachutes as they do not pay proper price for it.

Sir, two years ago, on the 16th March, 1942, I and Dr. Sanyal also gave a warning to the then Government that either all silk should be controlled or a fair price should be given. There was a Silk Advisory Committee but that committee does not meet now. The Director of Industries—not the present Director but the predecessor of this gentleman, Mr. Mitter—called the meeting of the Advisory Committee and the Advisory

Committee advised them that all grades of silk should be controlled if control is at all necessary and fair price should be fixed for different grades of silk. The District Magistrate of Malda was also of the same opinion as ours.

Sir, the House should know that Malda produces 85 per cent. of the silk that Bengal produces. It will be noted that out of the total area of 32,347 bighas which is under mulberry cultivation in the whole of Bengal, Malda has 26,702 bighas, Murshidabad 3,320 bighas, Birbhum 2,041 bighas, Bankura 118 bighas—after 41 per cent. increase by the effort of the Director of Industries we have in Bankura 118 bighas—Midnapore 142 bighas, Bogra only 14 bighas—there has been an increase of 55 per cent. this year and Rajshahi 13 bighas. Therefore, Malda produces 85 per cent. of the whole quantity of silk, then comes Murshidabad and then the other districts of Bengal. This is a very old industry and we have learnt from history that one Bhiku Sheikh of Malda exported some silk goods to London in the 19th century..

Sir, this department has remained uncared for for a long time. Government, of course, have started some *nurseries* but they have started them with men who have no knowledge of the department save and except book knowledge of foreign countries and who have tried to improve the industry by cross-breeding of silk worms. *Desha bechon* has been destroyed completely and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will take note of it. Now they do not find any *desha bechon* and the so-called experts of foreign countries tried to improve it by cross breeding but they have failed. In Kashmir and Mysore, it has been successful. The State is financing everything and the State has controlled all grades of silk and they are purchasing silk not only for the war purpose but also other grades of silk and they sell it in the open market and the profit received by Government is divided from rearers to weavers so that they are given proper compensation for the supply of 'D' grade silk at controlled rate which is necessary for the war purpose. Government require 30,000 maunds of good cocoons, best quality cocoons—I have brought a specimen here—for war purposes, but they do not get 30,000 maunds of cocoons. They could get only from Malda because Malda produces 2,28,00,219 kahons of silk cocoons and there are four crops in the year.

Now, Government do not get required quantity of silk because they do not pay good price for it. To get one maund of cocoon, the rearer has to procure at least 30 maunds of mulberry leaves which are brought at Rs.5 a maund. So, he spends Rs.150 for mulberry leaves and Government gives Rs.100 for one maund of good cocoon.

Then, Sir, the so-called experts have invented some *ghais*—"Mitra Ghais", "Ghose Ghais", "Roy Ghais"—in place of the "*desha ghais*" and they are valued at Rs. 400 to Rs. 600 for one *ghai*. This is a kind of charka of the Gandhi type—only the name has been changed so that it may be used for war purposes. The silk is as good as *khaddar*. This is a hand-spun and hand-woven thing and it is an indigenous industry. One who can purchase 12 such improved *ghais* is entitled to have cocoons at controlled rate, thus the industry has been captured by the capitalists.

I submit, Sir, that there is necessity for creating separate departments under different Directorates. Under the head "Industries" there must be one separate department, a special department for sericulture. Sir, the sericulture industry must be improved. This is the only industry which has demand throughout the world. Since Government cannot approach Italy and Japan during war, so they are touching Bengal for the purpose of making parachutes. Government will get sufficient quantity of silk as they are getting now and are expected to get in future if they pay good price for it. The Departmental officers go to the interior of the villages and reelers cannot sell a single cocoon unless Government permit it. Only permit-holders can purchase cocoons. Those who are in the

villages find it extremely difficult to get permits, but the Calcutta capitalists who are financed by the India Government through the Department of Industries of Government of Bengal find no such difficulty. They have purchased "Ray machines", "Ghose machines", "Mitter machines" and they have started factories in Murshidabad. They purchase silk cocoons at the controlled rate from Malda and they take it to Murshidabad. As a result of this, 1,500 reelers are out of employment in Malda.

As regards cocoons, Sir, after 2 or 3 months their productive capacity decreases. As soon as cocoons are reared they should be taken to the reeler, so that he can make a profit out of it. The department takes 2 or 3 months to distinguish between 1st class and 2nd class silk and in 2 or 3 months the cocoon deteriorates and the productive capacity is decreased, and it is all due to negligence on the part of the department for not approving of the silk in proper time. After 3 months' time the production of silk is so much decreased that it is not possible to get proper price for it. Then the Departmental officers go and enter the village houses and disturb the reelers who make yarn. They go there but when the rearers ask for money they do not pay the proper price. There are cases of 20 men being prosecuted in Malda and I can cite one instance, the case of Hirdu Mandal—he is a Muslim; unfortunately he is not a Hindu. I hope the members of the Muslim League party will take note of the fact that 90 per cent. of the reelers in Malda are Muslims, and that this industry has been neglected by the Muslim League Ministry. The case of Hirdu Mandal is that he was absent when the officers went there and wanted to search his house in order to find out whether he had "D" grade silk and they mixed it up with other grades of silk so that the best grade could not be distinguished. Government take only "D" grade silk and the other grades of silk are rejected. This rejected silk cannot be sold in the open market by the reelers. They have to take it to the selling agent who has been appointed by Government. Though the controlled rate for this grade of silk is Rs.45 to Rs.50, per seer the selling agent says "I have got the agency as is reported after spending a good lot of money How can I give you a proper price for it unless you pay me Rs. 30?" The reelers have to sell it to that selected agent who has got an agency after spending a lot of money. If he offers Rs. 30 or Rs 40 the reelers have to be content with that. The selling agent gets 25 per cent commission out of the controlled rate of Rs 45 or Rs. 50, and from him the weavers of the same district get silk. The weavers used to get cocoons from the dealers, but nowadays they have to walk a distance of 16 to 20 miles, go to the selling agent and beg of him to take the silk. The selling agent will not give them at the controlled rate and they will have to offer extra money That is how, Sir, black-marketing is going on. This is how things are going on in this department in the name of control During war "D" grade silk is required for making parachutes. We do not mind that. But let Government fix the maximum as well as the minimum price at which such silk will be given, and a fair price should be given to the weavers. Unless fair price is given, Government may not get the required quantity of silk. The rejected silk should be permitted to be sold in the open market as is done in Kashmere and Mysore. The Hon'ble Minister may say that in those States the controlled rate is much lower than in Bengal. But I may tell him that in Kashmere and Mysore they take "D" grade silk at controlled rates for parachute purposes and the rejected silk is sold in the open market, or in auction. The profit is distributed amongst reelers and weavers in certain proportions, so that proper compensation may be paid to the silk growers by those States. But in Bengal, Government only take the proper grade of silk required for the purpose of making parachutes and the rejected silk is to be sold to the selling agent and not in the open market. The reelers have applied to the District Magistrate and also to the Chief Minister who paid a visit to Malda recently. They went on deputation to him and their case is (i) that the rate of cocoons and silk yarn should be

raised and (*ii*) that the rejected yarn should be allowed to be sold in the open market. They want dispensing with the selling agent and permission to sell the yarn of the rejected cocoons to customers at a rate equal to that given to the selling agent. Sir, their prayer is very reasonable and I hope that the Hon'ble Minister will give proper attention to this industry—the only industry in Bengal which fetch about Rs.3 crores in Bengal out of this industry, and to allow the reelers and the rearers to sell their rejected silk in the open market as in Kashmere and Mysore, and let Government fix a minimum price and raise the price of controlled silk.

Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in connection with handloom industry.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs.31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the general policy.

Sir, for the last 7 years I have been telling this House to take into consideration the importance of handloom industry in this Province. This industry employs about 2 lakhs weavers and the production of this industry equals to about 1/6th of the requirements of cloth in this province. It is very unfortunate, Sir, that though I have been telling this House and the Ministers concerned about these things for the last 7 years, the same thing has been repeated over and over again and they have not yet paid any heed to this essential problem of this province. This is a problem not only affecting the poor weavers of this province but it is a problem which is vitally connected with the question of supplying the needs of the province as regards cloth. To-day we are feeling the difficulty of not having just enough cloth for the province, and that is due to our handloom industry not being developed. Three years ago I told my honourable friends about the impending cloth famine in the province. We felt at that time that we would be in difficulty and due to the war conditions we would surely have to face a cloth famine in Bengal. I also urged on this House and the Government that we should organise the handloom industry of Bengal on proper lines as in that way lay the solution of the problem of cloth. I also tried to impress upon the authority the necessity of organising the hand-spinning industry which could make the people of the province somewhat self-sufficient as regards cloth. But unfortunately Government paid no heed to my suggestions. The result is today we are in this province in a very sorry condition. Sir, it is very very unfortunate that the Department of Industries has absolutely done nothing as yet for the development of handloom industry. I do not fully blame the present Ministers because they have recently come to office but I do blame their predecessors. Even this Ministry has not done anything for this industry though it is not impossible for them to do something during the short time they have been in office. The Departments of Civil Supplies, Co-operation, and even Revenue have done something for the handloom industry and I would like to know from the Minister in charge of this department to let us know what this department has done for the development of this industry in this province.

Sir, in 1937-38 the Industrial Survey Committee was formed by Government under the Chairmanship of such an eminent person as Dr. Mathai. This Survey Committee submitted its first report as regards handloom industry, and I think that report is now before Government for the last few years. I want to know from the Government whether they have given effect to any of the recommendations of that Committee. I know that there are several proposals submitted to Government for the establishment of spinning mills in this province and for opening of depots in selected areas. It is about 7 or 8 years that those proposals have been before Government. What has the Government done to develop this major industry in this

province? This industry can supply as I have already said, 1/6th of the needs of the province. I would ask again what has this department done to solve the cloth problem of Bengal? They may have scheme up their sleeves but how are those schemes going to be useful before they are actually put into operation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: What schemes?

Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: Schemes regarding development of handloom industry and establishment of spinning mills. Sir, take the case of Madras. That province has developed handloom industry because they paid much heed to the problem of handloom industry and also the problem of weavers. There they have appointed 3 officers of the Indian Civil Service, and they have appointed other officers—and they are all experts in that line. Government must spend money on the development of the handloom industry not only for the weavers of Bengal—most of whom are Muslims—but for the province as a whole so that it may be self-sufficient. They must organise the handloom industry for which they have done nothing up to this time. But, Sir, it is a sad thing that on the other hand they have taken steps that are detrimental to the interests of the industry. Take for instance, the sales tax. Sales tax is levied on the handloom products by this Government. Nowhere else such a tax is imposed. No other province has taken any steps which aim at crippling the efforts of weavers. They are in this province going to control the prices of handloom products. These weavers died in thousands during the last famine. They are still in great difficulty. They do not get yarn and the Government never stand by them when there is mill competition. When there is some possibility of the weavers getting some profit out of the situation like the present they come and put control over the handlooms. They have not organised the handloom industry here as in Madras. The Madras Government have always stood by the weavers in times of difficulty. It may be said that the post-war conditions may be better. The Government of Bengal cannot supply yarn to the weavers, they cannot organise the handloom industry on proper lines and they come and control prices of handloom products! The Minister in charge should convince other ministers concerned that it is their primary responsibility to see that there is no control over prices of handloom products.

There is another important question which I would place before the House for consideration. If this handloom industry—which is the key industry of the province—is to be developed, then the three departments, viz., the Industries Department, Co-operative Department and the Civil Supplies Department have got to be co-ordinated and an autonomous board should be constituted with these three departments so that they may be in a position to devise ways and means for the development of handloom industry and provide adequate funds for it. I think that also was the recommendation of the Industrial Survey Committee and also of the Fact Finding Committee.

I told them before on occasions more than one that Bengal was a deficit province as regards cloth. I wonder why they have not taken up steps to solve this problem. Easily more yarn can be produced and easily more looms can be established. I seriously ask the Minister in charge to take these things into consideration and save the handloom industry of Bengal.

With these words I commend my motions to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the culpable negligence of the Government in the matter of development of cottage industries particularly hand-made paper, hand-spun yarn and cloth, etc.

There was a time when the manufacture of hand-made paper served as the principal occupation of thousands of people in different parts of Bengal. These people are even now known as *kagajees*: But as mill-made paper began to be imported from foreign countries hand-made paper could not stand competition and as a necessary consequence this industry almost collapsed. The All-India Village Industries Association with the object of reviving some of the cottage industries in Bengal took up the development of hand-made paper industry in about 1935 and opened centres at Outsahi near Arial in the district of Dacca, at Jangipur in Murshidabad and at Amta in the district of Howrah. The Khadi Pratisthan also began to manufacture hand-made paper at Sodepur under the guidance of Sj. Satish Chandra Das Gupta. They helped the workers with valuable constructive suggestions, with chemicals and raw materials and were successful in creating a market for their production not only in Bengal but also in other provinces.

Mr. Kiran Chandra Sen, an energetic and indefatigable worker of the All-India Village Industries Association was placed in charge of the Outsahi centre and he successfully organised the Arial workers (*kagajees*) and converted Arial into a big productive centre of hand-made paper in the province. Unfortunately this gentleman was arrested and he is still now in detention and several other workers of the All-India Village Industries Association were also put into jail. The efforts of the All-India Village Industries Association workers in this direction received a great set back.

One other organisation under the name and style of "Hand-made Paper Industries of India" was started in May 1942 with its head office at 37/1, Malanga Lane, Calcutta, with two-fold object. They would manufacture pulps in large quantities from the cheapest raw materials and distribute the same in rural areas; the cost of production in that case will be much less than at present. They would further manufacture document and other quality papers which have got a permanent scope in this country inasmuch as hand-made quality paper is still now imported from foreign countries. With this object in view they have started a factory at Tollygunj and they have secured the services of an eminent engineer who studied paper technology in Europe for four years and they have already advanced Rs. 1,500 to this gentleman for modern appliances of the value of Rs.6,000, to start with. This concern supplied hand-made paper to the Government of India worth about Rs.5,000 beginning from June 1942 to 1943.

In March, 1944, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar made a statement in the Central Assembly to the effect that the Government of India has a definite plan to assist hand-made paper industry on an all-India basis. The plan of assistance includes the provision of an assured market by the Government's purchase of the quantity manufactured as well as of technical assistance if the industry applied for it. He also stated that the provincial Governments were giving all necessary direct encouragement and assistance. The manager of this concern saw the Deputy Director of Industries in February, 1944, and acquainted him with the object of this concern and their activities in this connection. He was instructed to submit an application for assistance. Accordingly on 19th February 1944 he submitted a petition to the Deputy Director of Industries for some chemicals and other assistance. But the Deputy Director of Industries gave no reply to this letter whatsoever although as many as three reminders were sent one after another.

The Secretary of the All-India Famine and Flood Relief Committee—a relief organisation which rendered relief to the sufferers of Arial helping them to continue to manufacture paper during the famine of 1943 submitted a petition to the Deputy Director of Industries regarding the development of the paper industry on a permanent footing, seeking assistance in the shape of supply of raw materials at reduced price and necessary technical help at about this time but curiously enough the

Deputy Director of Industries sent a reply to the effect that "I have no vacancy to offer you". This shows that the Deputy Director of Industries did not even go through his petition. The Secretary did not seek any job under him. The only work that this department did in this connection was to ask the workers of Arial to send their products to 7, Council House Street. It appears when the hand-made paper industries of India were selling this quality paper at Rs. 24 per ream the Deputy Director of Industries was selling the same quality and same size at Rs.25-8 per ream. This concern has been selling paper of a better quality of foolscap size at Rs. 20 and the Deputy Director of Industries' rate is Rs.22.

Now to make this quality paper with success it is not possible to achieve the desired object without electricity. They applied to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., for that purpose. The Engineer of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation inspected the factory at Tollygunj and asked them to send them a certificate of essentiality from the Supply or the Defence Department. Accordingly the manager of the concern applied to the Director of Paper, Government of India, Supply Department, and the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India asked him in reply to refer the matter direct to the provincial Government under whose jurisdiction the firm is located.

I requested the Hon'ble Minister to look into the matter so that this concern may get a certificate of essentiality from he Supply Department. Their work is at a standstill for want of electricity. The manufacture of document and other quality papers has got a permanent scope in this country. The Department of Industries should not be indifferent in this matter. They may be under the impression that hand-made paper has got no future but that is not correct, at least with respect to hand-made quality paper.

As to hand-spun yarn and cloth the attitude of the Government is nost unsympathetic. The All-India Spinners' Association has been working in this direction for over two decades. In Bengal other similar institutions such as Khadi Pratisthan, Khadi Mandal, etc., have already taken up the matter. But, Sir, unfortunately the Government suppressed these organisations on which my friend, Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta, has already dwelt at great length and I need not repeat. It seems the Government is rather hostile to these organisations.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demantd of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government for Fisheries Department.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, বাংলাদেশের খাদ্যশস্যের মধ্যে মাছ অন্যতম। বাংলায় দেখা যায় যে বিভিন্ন খাদ্যশস্যের উৎপন্ন এবং তাহার উন্নতির বিষয়ে বিভিন্ন প্রকারের চেষ্টা আছে। কিন্তু এই যে একটা প্রধান খাদ্য যে খাদ্য না হ'লে বাংলায় একদিনও চলে না, বাঙ্গালী একদিনও এই খাদ্য না খেয়ে থাকতে পারে না সেই খাদ্যের প্রসার বা তার উন্নতির জন্য কোন চেষ্টা নাই বল্‌লেই হয়। কয়েক বৎসর ধরে বাংলা Government এই মাছের উন্নতি করবার যে একটা কল্পনা-জল্পনা করছেন সেটা শুনলে পর বাঙ্গালীর একটু আশার সঞ্চার হয় বটে কিন্তু এ যাবৎকাল তাঁদের কার্য্যধারা দেখে সে আশায় আশা আর আদৌ থাকে না। কয়েক বৎসর কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় হয়ে গিয়েছে বটে কিন্তু বাংলার বর্ত্তমান বৎসরের যে budget সেই budgetএ জনসাধারণের মঙ্গলের জন্য, বৎসরের উন্নতির জন্য কি যে কাজ করা হ'লো তার কোন সংবাদ পাওয়া যায় না। সংবাদ পাওয়া যায় বাংলা Governmentএর কতকগুলি Officer নিযুক্ত করার একটা পরিকল্পনা তাঁদের মাথার মধ্যে এসেছেন। তাঁরা জানিয়েছেন যে এ বৎসরে আমরা চারজন Deputy Director, আট জন Superintendent, ২৬ জন District Fishery Officer এবং ৮৫ জন Field Assistant নিযুক্ত করবো এই কল্পনা করেছি। এবং ইতিমধ্যেই একজন Deputy Director, চার জন Superintendent,

২৩ জন Fishery Officer আর ২০ জন Field Assistant আমরা নিযুক্ত করেছি। এই কতকগুলি লোক নিযুক্ত করলেই যদি বাংলার মাছের উন্নতি করা হয় এবং সেই কল্পিত মাছের দ্বারা যদি বাংলার উন্নতি করা হয় তাহলে কিছু উন্নতি করা হয়েছে এটা স্বীকার করা যায়। কিন্তু এই যে officer নিযুক্ত করে বাংলার মাছের উন্নতির ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে সে বাংলার এমন কোন নরনারী নেই যে বলতে পারবে যে এর দ্বারা এই কাযটুকু করা হয়েছে। এই officer নিযুক্ত করাতে দলগত কিছু কায হতে পারে, দল পুষ্ট করা যেতে পারে; কিন্তু এমনিভাবে Governmentএর টাকা ব্যয় করে বাংলার কতকগুলি লোক বসিয়ে রাখার কোন স্বার্থকতা থাকে না। এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি আর একটি কথা না বলে পারি না। এই যে লোকগুলি নিযুক্ত করেছেন গভর্ণমেণ্ট যার কর্ণধারগণ মাঝে মাঝে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির উপর খুব দরদের ভাব দেখান তাঁরা কি লক্ষ্য করেছেন তাঁদের কি দেখবার মনোবৃত্তি বা অবসর আছে যে এতগুলি অফিসারের মধ্যে মাত্র একজন তপশীলভুক্ত জাতি হইতে লওয়া হইয়াছে। এ ছাড়া District Fishery Officerএর আপিসে বহুসংখ্যক কেরাণী নিযুক্ত করেছেন, তার মধ্যে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির লোক খুঁজে পাওয়া যায় না। এই ২০ জন Field Assistantএর মধ্যে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির তথাকথিত ratio অনুসারে তিন জন লোক নেওয়া উচিৎ ছিল, কিন্তু তার মধ্যে মাত্র নেওয়া হয়েছে একজন লোক। তারপর তাদের যে কার্য্যধারা কয়েক বৎসর ধরে হচ্ছে, কেবল research করা হচ্ছে, কি করে মাছের উন্নতি করা যায়, কি করে ভাল মাছ করা যায়, কোথায় কি মাছ করা যায়, এই কাজ। কতকগুলি লোক কলকতার বড় বাড়ীতে বসিয়ে, electric fanএর তলায় রেখে, তাদের দিয়ে এই কল্পনা-জল্পনা করতে করতে বাংলার মাছ বাংলায় ফুরিয়ে যাবে, তাদের কার্য্যধারা আর শেষ হবে না। জেলায় জেলায় কাজ করার জন্য যে সমস্ত লোককে পাঠানো হয়েছে, সেই সব লোকের উপর বিশেষ নির্দ্দিষ্ট কাজের কোন ভার দেওয়া হয় নাই। ফলে তারাও Head Officeএর মত স্বস্থানে বসে আছেন; উপর দিকে তাকিয়ে আছেন। তাঁরা মাঝে মাঝে দু'চার খানা গ্রামে যান্ আর একটা করে report দাখিল করে দেন্ যে এই গ্রামে এতগুলি পুকুর আছে, এই পুকুরে এই মাছ করা যেতে পারে, এই reportএ আজ বাংলা Government, বাংলার Minister-in-charge of the Department যিনি আছেন তিনি সন্তুষ্ট হয়ে বসে আছেন।

যুগ যুগ ধরে বাংলার লোক মাছ খায়, মাছ উৎপন্ন করে। বাংলার নদীতে মাছ আছে, পুকুরেও আছে, কিন্তু আজ মফঃস্বলে পানায় পুকুর সমস্ত বুজে গিয়েছে, পুকুরে জল নেই সেখানে মাছ থাকতে পারে না। তাই আমি এই প্রসঙ্গে এই কথা বলবো যে যদি এই সমস্ত লোক আলাপ-আলোচনা এবং কল্পনা-জল্পনায় সময় নষ্ট না করে বাংলার যে সমস্ত নদীতে মাছ আছে সেই মাছগুলিকে যদি নূতনভাবে আরো কিছু উন্নতি করবার চেষ্টা হ'তো তাহলে মাছের চাষের উন্নতি হতো এবং প্রচুর মাছও পাওয়া যেতো। এ যাবৎকাল এই যে মাছের একটা ব্যবস্থা, বাংলায় এ ব্যবসায়কে অবহেলা করা হয়েছে, মাছের ব্যবসায়ের উন্নতির কোন চেষ্টা করা হয়নি, গভর্ণমেণ্ট হতে কোনই সহায়তা হয়নি। যদিও মাছ না হলে বাঙ্গালীর চলে না তাহলেও বাঙলার কতকগুলি অনুন্নত অশিক্ষিত লোকের হাতে এই কাজের মাছের উন্নতি, অবনতি, ব্যবসায়, ক্রয়, বিক্রয় সব কিছুর ভার দেওয়া হয়েছে। তাদের নাই টাকা, নেই পুঁজি, নেই ক্ষমতা; তাঁরা যা পারেন তাই করেন।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Roy, your time is up.

Mr. PATIRAM ROY : আমি শেষ করছি। আমাদের এই যে মৎস ধরা এবং বিক্রয় করা এটা দেখা যায় যে বাংলায় তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির মধ্যেই কয়েকটা শ্রেণী এই কায করে থাকেন। যদি তাদের প্রকৃত সাহায্য করা হ'তো, এই কল্পনা-জল্পনাগুলি বেশী না করে; তাহলে তাদের দ্বারা যথেষ্ট কাজ করা যেতো। মৎস্য-ব্যবসায়ী তপশীলভুক্ত জাতি পুরুষ-পুরুষানুক্রমে যাঁরা এই মাছের কাজ করে এসেছেন, অভিজ্ঞতার দ্বারা তাঁরা যে জ্ঞান লাভ করেছেন, research করে তথাকথিত অফিসরগণের তাহা লাভ করতে বহুদিন কেটে যাবে। তাই বলি এমনি-ভাবে সময় ও অর্থ নষ্ট না করে ঐ ব্যবসায়ীগণকে ঐ সহজাত অভিজ্ঞগণকে আবশ্যকমত সাহায্য করা হউক, তাহাদিগকে সুপথে পরিচালনা করা হউক। আজ যদিও কোন কোন গ্রামে তাঁরা নিজেরা মৎস্যজীবি সমবায় সমিতি গঠন করেছেন, কিন্তু বাংলা Governmentএর কাছ থেকে টাকা ত দূরের কথা একটা সহানুভূতিসূচক কথা পর্য্যন্ত তারা পায়নি। এমনি করেই বাংলা Government চায় যে ২।১টা চাকরী দিয়ে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতিকে স্বর্গে তুলে দেওয়া হবে, তাদের উন্নতি করে দেওয়া হবে। কিন্তু লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক আজ যে ব্যবসায় উপর নির্ভর করে, তাদের টাকার বদলে একটা সহানুভূতির কথাও নাই। তাই আমি বলবো যে বাংলার যারা মৎস্যজীবি যদি তাদের মধ্যে মৎস্যজীবি সমবায়

সমিতি গঠন করা হয় এবং তার দ্বারা যদি মাছের চাষের উন্নতি করা হয় তাহলে কলিকাতার fanএর তলায় বসে কল্পনা করতে হতো না আর ৫০ বৎসর ধরেও কল্পনাকে কাজে পরিণত করা হয়ে উঠবে কিনা সন্দেহ। বাংলার মৎস্যজীবি সম্প্রদায় জানে যে কি করে বাংলার মাছের চাষ করতে হয়।

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before you begin I might say that it has been decided in consultation with the Whips of different parties that I will close this debate at 12-15, and taking the maximum time the whole matter will be finished by 1-30. The Hon'ble Minister will speak for 15 minutes and voting and other things will take 10 minutes. Therefore you will get only 5 minutes.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: May I point out that the Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture, will also like to say something.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the show which the Government call the Fisheries Department.

Sir, I do not propose to say much after what has fallen from the lips of my honourable friend Mr. Patiram Roy. It is known that in Bengal with its rivers and the sea there are vast possibilities of fishing trade and industry and it is also known that fish forms a part of the staple food of the Bengalees but unfortunately the Bengal Government has never been known to be fishery minded. Since Sir K. G. Gupta was called upon to make a review of fishing possibilities of the province we have practically heard nothing about it except for once during the first Fazlul Huq Government when at the instance of Mr. N. R. Sarker a fishing expert from abroad was appointed who, I understand, made enquiries and submitted a report, but as it usually happens, the report was buried in the archives of the Writers' Buildings. When it was announced that the Government of Bengal had inaugurated a new Fisheries Department with an expert—or a so-called expert—in the person of Dr. S. L. Hora, we felt encouraged, we felt that something might be done. I had personally an occasion to discuss the fishing situation of the province with Dr. Hora. From the confession he personally made I did not feel encouraged that anything real and substantial could be done in this direction.

Some token appointments and, I say, ornamental appointments have been made without a real purpose. I understand Dr. Hora has made a scheme, a scheme which has aptly been criticised as "ধানের ক্ষেতে মাছের চাষ" (cultivation of fish in the paddy field) in the *Prabashi* of Falgoon last. I think that a thorough scientific and rational enquiry should be made forthwith into the possibilities of fishing and fishing trade in the province and in this work particularly the knowledge and experience of the fishermen community should be harnessed. Their practical experience extending over generations should be brought into service and the whole thing should not be left to the amateurish freaks of a few people in some palatial buildings in the city of Calcutta. Sir, in order to show how the scheme of Dr. S. L. Hora, the Director of Fisheries, has been received by the public let me make a present of the few lines of the very partinent remarks that have been made in this connection in the *Prabashi* which I mentioned just now. *Prabasi* says:

"ধানের ক্ষেতে মাছের চাষ"।

ধানের ক্ষেতে মাছের চাষ সম্বন্ধে মৎস্য বিভাগের বর্ত্তমান ডিরেক্টর অনেক প্রচার-কার্য্য চালাইয়াছেন, প্রচুর অর্থও ইহাতে ব্যয় হইয়াছে। কিন্তু আমাদের দেশে এই প্রকার চাষের সুযোগ কি পরিমাণে আছে তাহা তলাইয়া বুঝিবার চেষ্টা করা হয় নাই। ভিন্ন প্রদেশের লোকের পক্ষে তাহা করাও বোধ হয় কঠিন। শ্রীযুক্ত গঙ্গোপাধ্যায় লিখিতেছেন:

"অধ্যক্ষ মহাশয় মাছ বাড়াইবার জন্য প্রাণপণ চেষ্টা করিতেছেন নূতন নূতন উপায় পরীক্ষার দ্বারা। তাহার একটি প্রধান কীর্তি বাঙালীকে ধান ক্ষেতে মাছ চাষ করিতে শিক্ষা দেওয়া, যাহাতে এক সঙ্গে ভাত ও মাছ দুয়েরই ব্যবস্থা হয়।"

As, Sir, Grow more Food campaign is carried on in the streets of Calcutta, so also Grow more Fish campaign is carried on in the paddy field of Bengal not in the Rivers and not in the Sea of Bengal.

"এই মিশ্র চাষের সাফল্য চীন প্রভৃতি দেশে দেখা যায়। কিন্তু আমাদের দেশে বহু ভাগে বিভক্ত জমির দেশে কতদূর সফল হইবে তাহা জানা যায় নাই। এই চাষের জন্য প্রয়োজন বিশেষভাবে নালা কাটা ও আল দেওয়া জমি সেটা সকল স্থলে সম্ভব নয়। আবার যেখানে জমিতে চাষকালীন তুচ্ছ জল চুকান ও বাহির করান এবং ধান কাটা লইয়া খুন-জখম, মামলা নিত্যই লাগিয়া আছে সেখানে ধানের সঙ্গে মাছ এই দুই লইয়া আরো কত বিপদের সম্ভাবনা তাহা স্থির করা সম্ভব নয়। আর একটি বাধা জমিতে আল বাঁধা লইয়া। আমাদের জমি খুব কমই এক রগ্রে দেখিতে পাওয়া যায়; বেশীর ভাগই খণ্ড খণ্ড ইতস্তত: বিক্ষিপ্ত অবস্থায় থাকে, অর্থাৎ রামের জমির পাশেই রহিমের এবং তার পাশে শ্যামের তারপর আবার রামের এইভাবে থাকে। এইরূপ ক্ষেত্রে এক জমি হইতে আর এক জমিতে যাইবার একমাত্র পথ মাঝের আলগুলি। এই আলগুলি এজমালি সম্পত্তি এবং এই আল উঁচু করিয়া নিজের জমিকে মাছ চাষের উপযুক্ত করা কতদূর আইনসঙ্গত তাহা আমার জানা নাই, তবে এইরূপ স্থলে আল উঁচু করিতে গেলে বিবাদ ও মামলা যে অবশ্যম্ভাবী তাহা আমার নিজস্ব অভিজ্ঞতা হইতে নিশ্চয়রূপে বলিতে পারি। এইরূপ মিশ্র চাষ অবশ্য স্থান বিশেষে অর্থাৎ যেখানে নিজের এক রগ্রে জমি আছে, নালা কাটিবার ও উঁচু আল দিবার সঙ্গতি আছে, সর্ব্বোপরি নিজের প্রতিপত্তি যেখানে অখণ্ড সেরূপস্থলে ইহা খুবই উপযোগী। উদাহরণস্বরূপ হ্যামিল্টন সাহেবের গোসাবা আবাদ, কোন কোন প্রভাবশালী ব্যক্তির সুন্দরবন আবাদ প্রভৃতি স্থলে ইহা সম্ভব; কিন্তু হাওড়া জেলা, বসিরহাট, বারাসাত মহকুমা, খুলনার স্থান বিশেষ প্রভৃতি কয়েকটি স্থানে বে-সরকারী উদ্যোগী ব্যক্তিরা বিশেষভাবে সাফল্য লাভ করিয়াছেন। অধ্যক্ষ মহাশয়ের চেষ্টা প্রশংসনীয় নিঃসন্দেহ, কিন্তু তাঁহার বাংলা দেশ সম্বন্ধে জ্ঞান কয়েকটি সহরেই সীমাবদ্ধ।"

Sir, I need not dilate further on the subject. I hope I have been able to convince the House. If really the fishery industry is to be taken in right earnest and seriously by Government they must look into the scientific possibilities of this industry and they must not toy with it as they have been doing so long.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Khan Bahadur, are you moving your motion?

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: আমি আমার নামের ১৫নং cut motion move করছি। মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, খাজা সাহাবুদ্দীন সাহেবকে আমি আজ ভক্তি ভরে দুইটা কথা বলছি। আমি কথা বলবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে Minister সাহেব উঠে গেলেন। তিনি আমার কথা না শুনলে আমি কাকে বলবো?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no time. Therefore it is desirable that you formally move your motion and if you can finish your speech in three minutes you can speak. I take it you are moving item No. 7 which stands in your name, namely, about free distribution of spinning wheel, etc.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the free distribution of spinning wheel (*charka*) in more number as remedial measure of cloth shortage and supply of yarn to the weavers.

আমি Minister মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করছি আপনি Industries বিভাগের ৩১,১৬,০০০ টাকা বরাদ্দ করেছেন তাহা sufficient বলে আমরা মনে করছি না। আশা করি আপনাদের এই ব্যয়-বরাদ্দের টাকা আরো বাড়াইয়া লইবেন। এ সম্বন্ধে আপনাদিগকে আমি এই কথা বলিতেছি যে আজকে বাংলা দেশে কাপড়ের

যে অবস্থা দাঁড়িয়েছে তা নিশ্চয়ই আপনাদের জানা আছে। ইজ্জৎ রক্ষা হচ্চে না, উলঙ্গাবস্থায় coffin করা হচ্চে এবং সরকারী কর্মচারীকে রাস্তায় আক্রমণ করে কোন কোন লোকেরা জোর করিয়া কাপড় আদায় করিবার ব্যবস্থা করিতেছে। অথচ সরকারী বিভাগে কাপড় আছে। এই অবস্থায় আপনাকে বলি আপনি এই বিদেশ কাপড়-গুলি control করুন; কিন্তু দেশের খদ্দরের যে কাপড় তাঁতের যে কাপড় তাহার প্রতি সহানুভূতি দেখাইয়া যাহাতে দেশের লোক দুটো তাঁতের কাপড় পাইতে পারে তাহার ব্যবস্থা করুন; যতটুকু সম্ভব দেশে চরখা দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করুন এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে সূতা দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করুন। চট্টগ্রাম জেলায় যথেষ্ট সূতা উৎপন্ন হয়। সেই সূতা দেশে যেমন, ভারতে এবং ভারতের বাইরেও আমদানী করা হয়। চট্টগ্রাম হতে অনেক সূতা ভারতের বাইরে রপ্তানী হয়। চট্টগ্রামে দেশপ্রিয় Cotton Mill নামে একটি cotton mill আছে; তাহার machineও আছে এবং সূতাও আছে; কিন্তু সেখানে fundএর অভাবে কাপড় তৈরি হইতে পারিতেছে না। সরকার সাহায্য করলে সেখানে কাপড় তৈরি করবার একটা সদ্ব্যবস্থা হবে। এই সঙ্গে আমি আর একটা কথাও বলছি চট্টগ্রামে আঁকের চাষ খুব বেশী হয়। সেখানে আপনারা অন্ততঃ যে কোন ধরণের কয়েকটা চিনির কলের ব্যবস্থা করুন। চিনির যে অভাব হইয়াছে তাহা আমাদের দূর হইবে। আমি আর একটা অনুরোধ করি দয়া করে শুনুন আপনারা যে গত বৎসর বলিয়াছেন চট্টগ্রামে training centre খোলা হবে তাহা করেন নাই। মৌলবী ফজল ল কাদির খান বাহাদুর তিনি কয়েকটা শিল্পের সাহার্য্য করিয়া উপকার করিয়াছিলেন কিন্তু টাকার অভাবে দেশের কাজ আটকে আছে। আমি অনুরোধ করি খান বাহাদুর সাহেবকে আরো কয়টি টাকার সাহায্য দিয়ে আপনি পূর্ব্ববঙ্গের Industries উদ্ধার করুন। এই সঙ্গে আরো বলিতেছি: মাছের পোনা কোথায় যায় তা অনেকের জানা নাই। আমি বলি এখানে ডাক্তার সানাউল্লা সাহেব আছেন, তাঁর বাড়ির সামনে যে নদী আছে তাহাতে যে পোনা জন্মে সে পোনা দিয়ে বাংলা দেশের অর্দ্ধেক জায়গায় বিক্রী হইতে পারে। যখন সেখানে ডিম রহিয়াছে, সেই ডিম কেন কেনা হয় না? আমি এই খান বাহাদুর মোয়াজ্জিমুদ্দীন সাহেবকে অনুরোধ করছি আপনি নিশ্চয় জানেন মাছের পেটে ডিম আছে, সেই ডিমে কেন পোনা হবে না। সেই ডিমের পোনা বাংলা দেশের সর্ব্বত্র আছে। পকুরে রাখার কোন খরচা নাই এবং আর করা অতি সহজ। তাহা চিন্তা করিয়া দেখিবেন।

Mr. J. H. METHOLD: Sir, I would like to say a few words on the subject of fisheries which at long last has an increased provision provided in the budget as compared to a paltry Rs. 61,000 as originally provided last year. The European party have for many years been urging Government to take active steps to develop Bengal's almost unlimited fisheries, and we are very glad to note that Government are at last giving more attention to this problem. For the first time the Hon'ble Finance Minister gave this problem the prominence that it deserves in his Budget Statement. He stated, Sir, that "our present miseries have impelled us to action in this direction as in many others". We hope, Sir, that this does not mean that when our miseries subside—which I hope will be soon—Government's efforts to develop our fisheries will also be permitted to subside. We hope, Sir, that the Department of Fisheries will be placed on a permanent basis, and that the Hon'ble Minister will spare no efforts to recruit and train the necessary staff.

While we welcome the Hon'ble Minister's efforts to establish an adequately staffed department, we must express disappointment with what has so far been achieved.

One of the most urgent problems is that of increasing the present inadequate supplies to urban areas and it appears to me that no definite policy has yet emerged from the Department. I would have thought that the Department would have learnt its lesson from the serious shortages which occurred last year and the consequent high prices which prevailed in these areas and would have a scheme ready to prevent a recurrence.

In reply to questions in this House, the Hon'ble Minister has indicated that he considers the present trade organisation capable of improving the supply and distribution provided sufficient ice is made available and transport facilities are provided. He also indicated—in December 1944—that the rehabilitation of the fishermen was necessary and that the needs of these important people were being somewhat belatedly investigated by the District Officers. This reply suggested two things, namely first, that

the problem of rehabilitation was not being treated with the urgency which it deserves and, second, that some department other than the Department of Fisheries was concerned with the problem of rehabilitation. I would like the Hon'ble Minister to clarify the position because it does seem to me essential that the Department of Fisheries should tackle this problem themselves and that vigorously too. There have been stories, of which the Hon'ble Minister must be aware, of unsuitable nets being supplied to the fishermen.

Government have now appointed an Ice Controller and though I am told he has not been provided with an office or any staff, I understand, that we may expect some improvement in the supply of ice. Government some time ago made enquiries for fast motor launches in Australia, and also, I believe, for trawlers from Canada. I would like to hear from the Hon'ble Minister what the result of these enquiries has been.

I would like to suggest, however, that even if Government succeed in increasing the ice supply and in improving transport facilities it does not necessarily follow that there is an improvement in the supply of fish to Calcutta and other urban areas. I say so, Sir, because of the ever present "Fish Ring" which dominates and exploits the fish trade right from the fishermen down to the final consumer. The Hon'ble Minister appears to deny the existence of the "Fish Ring" although it is common knowledge outside the portals of his department that it does exist. From figures it appears that imports of fish into Calcutta in 1943 were twice that of imports in 1941, 10 lacs of mds. against 5 lacs of mds. and the amount available for civilians worked out at ·266 maunds per head against ·238 maunds per head which does not indicate that there was a shortage but prices were very considerably higher in 1943. I have been advised that at one time at Goalundo during a glut of Hilsa fishermen were lucky to sell 80 fish for a rupee. The price in Calcutta however showed no change and many dead fish were thrown back into the river. It has been suggested that the fact that there are public auctions of fish at the receiving stations in Calcutta indicates that no fish ring exists but my information is that these auctions are auctions in name only in that the man who buys from the fishermen is the same man who sells the fish at the auction and also the man who buys at the auction. At the last meeting of the Fish Marketing Advisory Board we were told that the Governments of Orissa and United Provinces would be willing to supply fish to Bengal provided it was consigned to and disposed of by the Government of Bengal at controlled prices. This alone surely indicates the suspicion under which the fish trade is clouded.

I am not however suggesting that Government should at this moment go in for price control as this might be dangerous. This possibility does however become more practicable, if the Ice Controller, after issuing ice in sufficient quantities to the trade, observes that the trade continues to enforce high prices on the consumer. I do most certainly suggest that if the supply of fish to Calcutta and other urban areas is to be improved, then the department must direct its attention to organising the marketing of fish. The Fisherman is undoubtedly being exploited, and until we can break the "Fish Ring" by organising an alternative form of marketing I do not think we expect any real improvement.

To sum up, Sir, what is wanted is a comprehensive scheme which will provide—

(1) for the rehabilitation and organisation of the fishermen;
(2) for the organisation of the marketing of fish;
(3) for the transport facilities for an increased supply of fish for urban areas.

The department's efforts seem to me to have been so far piecemeal and without any definite plan, and I would like to hear from the Hon'ble

Minister that Government will take steps immediately to formulate and put into operation a comprehensive scheme which will secure some real improvement in our fish supplies.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, I shall try to give a very brief reply to the various points raised in connection with the Fisheries Department.

Mr. Patiram Roy has raised the question that the Department has only been appointing officers and that it is not doing any real work. The Department was practically existing only in name so long. It was only last year—about six months ago—that we organised the Department. We have been appointing men and we have not yet finished appointing all the men we require. At present the difficulty is that we get only Science Graduates but not any one with any practical experience. We are still doing our best. Within the last six or seven months, nothing spectacular can be expected. We will have to train these people by sending most of them to Madras where, the Fisheries Department has done a lot of good work. In the Madras Presidency there are about 1,000 men doing fisheries work. We have just appointed not even 200 men. We have to give them practical training before they can be of real use to us.

As regards the employment of Scheduled Castes, we have made it a point that the Scheduled Castes should be given the number of appointments to which they are entitled under the Communal Ratio Rules. In the higher posts, we could not get qualified men and so we could not give them their quota. But in the Field Assistants posts, I assure the House that the communal ratio will be maintained exactly in the same way as mentioned in the rules.

As regards the motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen, he was criticising Dr. Hora's scheme of paddy-*cum*-fish culture. It is not the intention of Government that this scheme will be tried throughout Bengal. It will be tried only in places where it is possible, for example in areas like Sundarbans where there are Bherees all round and fish can be reared there. As regards the apprehended disputes regarding the fish reared in the paddy fields, that will be considered later on. We will perhaps have to start co-operative societies for this kind of fish culture. We are now only in the experimental stage.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Anything about coastal fishing?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, we are now corresponding about that. We have to get the necessary trawlers and we are going to train our men by sending them to Madras. We have not got a single trained man, although we ransacked the whole country for trained men. We have got a very large number of tanks and we have already started tank fishery in the district of Bankura and gradually we are going to start them throughout Bengal under our Post-War Scheme as soon as possible. Then, Sir, Government is preparing a scheme for giving loans for the re-excavation of tanks for the purpose of fish culture and of nursery tanks for fish fries and Government will distribute fish fries at concession rates.

As regards the points raised by the European Party it has been doubted whether the department will continue after the present miseries brought on by the war are over. I can assure the House that we have made the department permanent and all the appointments that we have made have been made on a permanent basis. Then, it has also been pointed out that the work of rehabilitation of fishermen has not been taken in hand as they ought to have been, and that we have not been able to supply yarn as we ought to have. Of course, we have distributed some yarn and other

materials but we want more yarn and more coal tar and more boats. No one shall be more glad than I to distribute these things to the fishermen when I get them from the Supply Department.

As regards the question of launch we wanted some launches in order to quickly transport fish for the urban areas but we have not yet been told by the military authorities whether they will be able to spare any for us. Probably they will not be able to help us at the present time. But we are trying to supply more petrol and kerosene oil to those motor launch owners whose launches are sitting idle in the districts for want of oil for running them. As regards the launches coming from Australia we have not yet got them but we will be sending reminder for them.

As regards the establishment of a ring among the fishermen, I may inform the House that so far we have not been able to trace any such ring. We have however now got a separate marketing section of the Fisheries Department and it will be the business of that section to be on the look out of the existence of any ring. If we find that there is any ring we will certainly deal with it with a firm hand.

It is said that an offer has been made by the United Provinces Government for sending fish provided we arrange shops for their sale at controlled rates. My own idea was that there was no such offer and still to be sure I enquired of the Secretary who has informed me that there is nothing in the proceedings of our meeting to show that there was any such offer. In fact, the United Provinces Government had put a ban on fish coming to Bengal and the reason for that was that very large quantity of fish was coming to Calcutta being attracted by high prices. We carried on correspondence with the United Provinces and Bihar Governments whether if we could control the price of fish they would be willing to remove the ban. Now, some sort of a working arrangement has been arrived at.

As regards ice, I may tell the House that our Ice Controller has been able to secure an increase in the output of ice to the extent of eighty tons a day and the military people have arranged ice for themselves to the extent of about 200 tons and so the situation has been much eased.

I should like to say one thing as regards the present price of fish. Much has been said about the present high price of fish but I must say that parity price must be maintained. When prices of all the articles including the consumers' articles such as staple foodgrains have been increased there must be a proportionate increase in the price of fish; otherwise how can the fishermen live? The ordinary price of fish used to be between annas 12 and Re. 1 in Calcutta; it rose to Rs. 3 last year and now it has come down to Rs. 2. It may be high but we must not lose sight of the fact that people in fish industry are not prejudicially affected by artificial control of prices. This is all I have got to say.

Sir, I only need mention here that nothing more could be expected within five or six months. We have not yet been able to set up the machinery in full but we hope to be able to show some good result by next year.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : মাননীয় Deputy Speaker সাহেব, on a point of information. কৃষি-মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের নিকট আমার নিবেদন কয়েকটি কথা জানতে চাই :

বর্তমানে মৎস্যের চাষ এবং তার উন্নতিকল্পে প্রধানতঃ পোনা মাছ যাতে মারা না পড়ে এবং এই পোনা মাছগুলি যাতে বড় মাছে খাইয়া না ফেলে এবং অনেক জলাশয় শুকাইয়া যায়, বহু মাছ মারা যায়, এই চারটি point সম্বন্ধে জানতে চাই।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is no point of information and I cannot allow you to proceed in this way.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I can't allow in that way.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : আমার কথাটা শুনে যান, এই চার প্রকারের অসুবিধা দূর করার জন্য Governmentএর সমস্ত officerরা কি ব্যবস্থা করেছেন?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already asked you to sit down but you are simply obstructing the proceedings of this House by insisting to go on in this way. Please sit down.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : আমি কোন অসুবিধার সৃষ্টি করছি না। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করছি এই যে চার প্রকারের অসুবিধা তা দূর করবার জন্য কি ব্যবস্থা হইতেছে।

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, before I deal with the various cut motions that have been moved I beg to submit a few words about the working of the Industries Department. We confess that so long the Industries Department had been working under certain limitations and it has not been the case only in this province but it has been so in all the other provinces in India. Sir, the Industries Department only interested itself so long in the development and promotion of cottage industries and did not touch the field of industrialisation of the province in the sense of taking up the heavier and big industries. But, Sir, as time changes and the State assumes control we in Bengal also want to assume control over the heavy industries in the public interest and in pursuance of that policy we are specially considering those industries which are either not properly developed or which are the basic industries and which are absolutely necessary for the life of the nation. In this respect, Sir, may I mention that it is the intention of this Government to gradually take over control of the silk industry. I will deal with the various points that have been raised on the questoin of silk industry later on but I can say here that we do realise that this is a very important industry of the province and Government should take greater and greater control over it. Personally speaking, I am even in favour of nationalising this industry. As far as our policy about electricity is concerned it is already well known and I need not repeat it here. We adhere to our policy and I can assure the House that we are taking necessary steps to achieve our objective.

Now, Sir, the next very important industry over which we are thinking of immediately establishing control as a state measure is the spinning mill and, as I have stated on other occasions, I am definitely of opinion that we should establish spinning mills and I am taking all possible steps to expedite the completion of our scheme so that we can approach the Government of India for necessary permit and facilities for importing machineries.

Now, Sir, I would refer to the first cut motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta about the assistance given to the *Rishis*. As far as the actual organised assistance given to the *Rishis* is concerned, I admit that so far we have not done it in a very comprehensive manner, but I can point out that there is a lot of misunderstanding as far as the rehabilitation scheme is concerned. The rehabilitation scheme is administered by the Revenue Department and although all assistance to artisans and technicians is given by the Director of Industries, for all practical purposes the Director of Industries is working under the Revenue Department as far as the rehabilitation scheme is concerned, but still because these points have been raised I shall give the information as far as I have been able to gather. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You have no responsibility in regard to the rehabilitation scheme?) I have explained various departments are carrying on various duties. The rehabilitation scheme is being administered by the Revenue Department. Certain amount of money has been allotted to the Director of Industries for providing assistance to the artisans. Their

plans have also been drawn up and every detail of that part of the duty of the Director of Industries is supervised and guided by the Revenue Department. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There is no scheme of rehabilitation of the Industries Department as such?) So far as the scheme of the Revenue Department is concerned, it is submitted to the Revenue Department and with their sanction it is carried out. It does not come to the Minister in charge of the Industries Department for approval. It only comes to him for information, but for actual sanction of the scheme it goes to the Revenue Department. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: The Industries Department has no rehabilitation scheme of its own—do we understand that?) It is simply splitting the hair and nothing more. It is not the question which department is carrying on. It is the duty of the Government of Bengal to carry on and whichever department is found the most suitable and appropriate department, for the time being it is carried on under that department. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Revenue Minister is more competent than you to deal with that?) I shall not be provoked to answer that interjection. I shall be very happy if my friend is considered more competent, but I do not think that question arises here. The rehabilitation scheme is carried out by one department and it is easier to allow that department to carry on instead of dividing it between various departments.

Now, Sir, as far as the tanning industry is concerned, a point was raised by my honourable friend Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta. May I mention that we have got two schemes specially ready for this purpose. As far as the schemes are concerned, we intend to extend our present Tanning Institute as well as establish two tanning schools, one in Dacca and the other in Chittagong. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is there any special scholarship for *Muchi* and *Rishi* students?) We contemplate providing special scholarships and stipends for this class of students and I am very grateful to my friend who has drawn my attention to it so that I have been able to tell the House that that was exactly what was contemplated in that scheme also. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Nothing done so far?) As far as the present is concerned, I have said in the beginning that under the rehabilitation scheme all these artisans are being assisted by the supply of raw materials and tools and to meet the labour charges some advance is also given. In short, I may mention that the main point in the rehabilitation scheme of assistance to artisans is that in many cases raw materials and tools are given to them absolutely free, in other cases these are given at concession rates and in still other cases these are supplied to them at controlled rates. So, in this way a very large amount of raw materials and tools have been supplied to the various classes of artisans throughout Bengal. As far as the *Rishis* are concerned, special care has been taken to send demonstration parties into those areas where their number is large.

Then, Sir, I will take up the question of weaving and handloom industry. I am very grateful to my honourable friend Mr. Sukumar Dutta for drawing the attention of the House that this question of organising the handloom industry has been before the public for a very long time and that some steps have been taken. He has made the concrete suggestion of establishing a handloom board. As far as Handloom Board is concerned, I may inform the House that the Central Government has decided to establish a Central Handloom Board in which they have asked for some nominations from the province. The idea of the Central Handloom Board is to assist and advise the provincial organisations and the Provincial Government. That matter is under my very close consideration—to set up a Handloom Board—but I would like to point out to my friend Mr. Datta that it is no use setting up a board unless I find that the elements necessary for the development or for providing facilities to that board to work are available. At the present moment, the main thing as far as the weavers and handloom weavers are concerned is the procurement of yarn and as

everybody knows there is a shortage of yarn and the Civil Supplies Department is trying to set up a proper organisation for procurement and distribution of yarn. Therefore, unless and until we can first settle and arrange for a better supply of the yarn, we shall not be able to do much to assist the handloom weavers. Our main concern now is the procurement and proper distribution of yarn. Unfortunately, as far as this subject of handloom industry is concerned, as it was pointed out by some of my friends in our party meeting also, the question is dealt with in some respect or other by three departments. The Industries Department are interested in handloom weavers, the Co-operative Department are also doing certain amount of work and now the Civil Supplies Department are also greatly responsible for procurement and supply of yarn. So, it has been suggested and I am sure I am not giving away any secret when I say that a Sub-Committee of these three departments is going to be set up to co-ordinate the work. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: To co-ordinate interests.) So that very useful and practical assistance may be given by the Co-operative Department, Industries Department and Civil Supplies Department and I hope that will be helpful.

Sir, as far as grants-in-aid and scholarships are concerned, I would straightaway accept what my friend has pointed out that the amount is very small and I can tell him that only about three weeks ago I have told the Director of Industries that I am not satisfied with this small amount. We must try to include in the revised Budget a very large provision, a substantially greater provision both under the head "Grants-in-aid" and under "Scholarships". We want to include it in our supplementary budget, so that it will be done immediately and not later.

Now, I will take up the question of silk industries that has been raised by my friend Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar. I may point out to him that as far as control is concerned, it has been necessary for the purpose of securing supplies for war effort. He knows it very well and he also knows it that the thing is better administered by a very high and efficient Government officer. Now, Sir, he has complained about the price. As far as price is concerned, I do not want to take more time of the House by referring to the papers. I will speak from memory again that it was something about Rs. 110 or so when two years ago we took up this question and were in correspondence with the Government of India. We induced them to raise the price to Rs. 120 and our argument was mainly on the ground of increased cost of living. This year a little while ago this question was again taken up by the Government of India, and the then District Magistrate Mr. Gordon went into the question very thoroughly and after very careful drawing up of the cost of living he came to the figure that it should be Rs. 105 or Rs. 110, I am not sure, but in spite of this report we have been able to secure Rs. 115 maximum. As far as the minimum price is concerned, I have been given to understand that it is not necessary. May I point out, Sir, that I went into the question thoroughly very recently and I admit that this Department requires expansion and reorganization and I have taken up this question. As a matter of fact the scheme is ready and the suggestion that it should be a separate Department under a Director of Sericulture is exactly the Government decision. The only thing is that everyone knows how our Finance Department in the past have been very very conservative in sanctioning the schemes. That is why we have had some difficulty, but now my scheme is ready. I am going to take this matter to the Finance Department and to the Cabinet for separating this Department and placing it under a separate Directorate and organize this Department in every possible manner, in every sphere of its activities. Especially, Sir, I am going to take steps to subsidise the mulberry growers and to see that they get proper assistance, so that we can get a larger area under that cultivation and better kind also. The same thing applies to cocoons and rearers. I can give a very interesting scheme, but it requires

reorganisation, and I hope that by the time we meet next, we shall be able to give a very definite account of our activities and expansion as far as this Department is concerned. I do not think I have got much time to take the other questions.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: What about rejected cocoons being sold in the open market?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: The difficulty about the question of Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar regarding the rejected cocoons being sold in the open market is that you cannot take one thing and leave the other thing. The moment we will say that the rejected cocoons will be left to the free market, the black-market tendency would increase. Already according to the report of Mr. Mitra who is administering it, Government have not been able to procure more than 25 per cent. of the good quality cocoons and 75 per cent. is going to the black-market. Do you know what is the reason for this? The reason is very simple.

Sir, I would like to say that it is a very important question. The price of fabricated silk is not controlled. Therefore people can get it at a very high price in the black-market and that is the reason why black-marketing is going on. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Whose bungling is that?) It is no question of bungling. What is wanted is that in every sphere of activities there should be proper control and organisation (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Was it not recommended by the Board?) It has not been done. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why not?) We have taken certain steps to organize and, as I have said, we are going to organize it properly and we are proceeding gradually towards taking greater control and eventually ending in nationalisation of this industry. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Nationalize bigger industries like Electricity, Tramway Company, etc.). As far as Electricity and Tramways are concerned my friend knows very well that nationalisation is the policy of the Government both in the case of Electricity and in Tramways and we are taking steps towards it.

Sir, one more word and I have finished. Recently everyone must have noticed that unfortunately a tendency is growing of bringing down the tone of the discussions and introducing baseless insinuation and abuse. I admit that today our discussion has been fairly free from such attempts except by one person whom I consider not worthy of taking any notice, but one thing I may say that in another place also more or less a statement of that kind was made. Unfortunately any statement or any insinuation or allegation and accusation made in this House is a privileged statement.

I think, Sir, I may just inform the House that because all these statements were published in the papers I have already taken steps and referred the matter to a Solicitor to take necessary steps. Sir, I oppose all the cut motions.

The motions of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the conduct of the Government in not giving proper training in tanning to the *Rishi* community (*Muchis*) in the Province of Bengal specially in the district of Tippera, who have been very seriously affected by last famine and the Government have not done anything for their rehabilitation as a part of their Rehabilitation Programme, and that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in declaring the Bengal Branches of the All-India Spinners' Association as illegal and in not withholding the ban even this day in view of the change of the political situation of the country were then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Sen that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the Rehabilitation Programme was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Shah Syed Golam Sarwar Hosaini that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to develop the textile industry in the Province, was then put and lost

The motions of Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Sericulture Department (for creating a Department for Sericulture and policy regarding silk control) and also.

that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 of expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about failure of Government policy in the matter of control of silk, were then put and lost.

The motions of Mr. Sukumar Dutta that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in connection with handloom industry, and also

that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the general policy, were then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the culpable negligence of the Government in the matter of development of cottage industries particularly hand-made paper, hand-spun yarn and cloth, etc., was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government for Fisheries Department was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the show which the Government call the Fisheries Department, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 31,16,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the free distribution of spinning wheel (*charka*) in more number as remedial measure of cloth shortage and supply of yarn to the weavers, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin that a sum of Rs. 31,16,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries", was then put and agreed to.

43—Industries—Cinchona.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 15,98,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona".

Mr. P. BANERJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,98,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Government failure to encourage private enterprises to increase the cultivation of cinchona.

Sir, this is a Department that should be self-supporting, or rather have a large surplus. But still the Hon'ble Minister who is new to this office has demanded Rs. 15,98,000. Sir, from the report published up to 1940 we find that this department was steadily making income. It has made a good income particularly in the year 1943. There is a great future for this province so far as this Department is concerned, though from the recent records available to us it is not possible to ascertain what is the exact position today. The Hon'ble Ministers in introducing their budgets do not now-a-days give any introductory speech so that we may enlightened about the various points. It has now become the general practice with the Government not to publish any report. For the last four years no report of the Department has been published and even if any is published it is not at all made available to us, nor is it placed in the library. So far, we have heard that in 3 places the plantation of Cinchona is increasing largely. This experiment of cinchona cultivation has been more than 8 years' old, but it is ridiculous to notice that during these years very little has been done. Some years ago I happened to meet and discuss this matter with the then Director of Public Health and he was of opinion that if this Department was properly worked the Government of Bengal would get about 8 crores of rupees yearly besides free supply of quinine to the Governments in India. That is the position, Sir. (At this stage the Hon'ble Speaker took his seat). Now that the Hon'ble Speaker has taken the Chair it reminds of one fact. It is this: Sir, when you were a Minister a certain scheme was sent up to the Government of India. But we do not know as yet what has happened to that scheme. We find that scheme has never been sent back by the Government of India because there is some other control, i.e., the control of the British Government. The British Government know very well that if this Department is allowed to develop very much in this country there will be a loss not only to the British Government but to other Governments like Holland as well. Sir, we had before the war imports from outside. But now owing to war conditions the supply has stopped and so we feel the pinch most. Honourable members know in a malaria-stricken country like ours how very keenly we feel the want of quinine and the House also knows how people have died and are dying like flies for want of quinine. Government do not come to the rescue of the people and as the position stands today nobody knows when the war will come to an end and even when the war concludes it will not be creditable on the part of Government to look abroad for supplies of quinine to keep ourselves going. Sir, when you were a Minister you sent a scheme to the Government of India. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to let this House know how the position stands today with the Government of India. We should get ready with our scheme and induce the Government of India to come to the rescue of this Department with subvention as they have done in a certain measure in respect of other departments, particularly the Department of Sericulture. As the Minister says, the position is better today and Government have large income from different sources. It is vitally important that Government should try to extend plantation in this way at no distant time so that larger and larger quantity of quinine may be available to the people of Bengal. I think this will also yield very good income and I say this on the authority of a highly placed official that eight crores will be available from this source. This the Hon'ble Minister knows and I hope he will assure us that he is making extensive plantation. Up to 1941 the plantation at Mungpoo was 1,800 acres, at Mungsong 1,293 acres and Rongpo 124 acres only; we would like to hear from the Hon'ble Minister by how much the plantation has

been increased this year. I am afraid Government has not been able to do much and therefore I suggest that it is in the fitness of things that Government should, in order to develop this department, help and promote the enterprises of private individuals so that they can make extensive cultivation and Government, where necessary, can help them. This is the only way of a solution of this question, and I hope Government will move in this direction and the Minister whom I know to be an honest man amongst the Ministers, must insist that something must be done to save the people of Bengal from ruin.

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,98,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the extension of cinchona culture.

আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে বলিতেছি যে চট্টগ্রামের আজ এই অবস্থা যে বাংলা দেশের এই জেলা একরকম অন্য কোন জেলার সঙ্গে তুলনা হয় না। চট্টগ্রামের একদিকে লবণাক্ত নদী ও অন্যদিকে পাহাড়, সমুদ্র। সেখানে যে সমস্ত জমি আছে, সে জমির বাংলা দেশে যত কিছু জমি আছে সমস্ত জমির তুলনায় কোথায়ও মিল নাই মিল আছে শুধু দার্জিলিংএ। চট্টগ্রামে অনেক জায়গা আছে যেখানে সিনকোনা হয়। আমি এমন একজনকে জানি চট্টগ্রামে তিনি নিজের বাড়ীতে অনেক কুইনিন্ তৈয়ার করিয়াছেন। তাহার নাম বলিলে তাহাকে গ্রেপ্তার করিবে। কাজেই তাহার নাম বলা সম্ভব নহে। যে কুইনাইনে মানুষের জীবন সঞ্চার করিতে পারে সেই কুইনাইন উৎপন্নের স্থান বহু চট্টগ্রামে রহিয়াছে। সেখানে কুইনাইন উৎপন্নের জন্য ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডকে অনুমতি দেওয়া হউক। আমি Governmentকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি চট্টগ্রামে কুইনাইন চাষের একটী centre খোলা হোক অথবা সেখানকার জমিতে কুইনাইন চাষ করিবার জন্য permission দেওয়া হোক। তাহা হইলে আপনাদের যে কুইনাইনের অভাব আছে, তাহা এক চট্টগ্রাম জেলা পূরণ করিতে পারে। এই সঙ্গে আর একটী কথা বলিতেছি। যে কুইনাইন বিতরণ যে উপায়ে হয় সে উপায়ে সেই বিতরণের ভার বর্ত্তমানে কতকগুলি দালালের হাতে দেওয়া হইয়াছে। বিতরণের জন্য Union Boardএর হাতে যে কুইনাইন দেওয়া হয়, তাহাও দেওয়া আজকাল বন্ধ করা হইয়াছে। অনেকে বলিয়াছেন ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের হাতে কুইনাইন দিলে ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের প্রেসিডেণ্ট তাহা চুরি করে। নিজেদের লোককে দেয়, সর্ব্ব সাধারণের জন্য কুইনাইন বিতরণ করে না, যাহারা দেশের প্রতিনিধি, তাহাদের কোন একজন যদি কুইনাইন বিতরণ এক বৎসর না করে, তাহা হইলে তিন বৎসর পরে সে ত আর মেম্বার হইতে পারিবে না। যেখানে নয়জন মেম্বার আছে, তাহাদের এই নয় জনের সঙ্গে দেশবাসীর যোগ রহিয়াছে। এই অবস্থায় একটী লোক যদি ঠিকভাবে তা বিতরণ না করে, তাই বলিয়া সকলকে দোষ দেওয়া উচিত নয়। আজকাল একজন লোককে contractor নিযুক্ত করিয়া অথবা dealer নিযুক্ত করিয়া কুইনাইন বিতরণ করা হইতেছে। তাহাতে চুরি আরও বৃদ্ধি পাইতেছে এবং দেশের লোকের পক্ষে কুইনাইন পাওয়া এক রকম অসম্ভব হইয়াছে। আমি Governmentকে অনুরোধ করি তাহারা যেন এই কুইনাইন বিতরণের জন্য ভাল ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করেন।

Mr. DAMBER SINGH GURUNG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the 18th February, 1944, the Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Excise in reply to my question gave a list of concessions that were given to the coolies of Mungpoo Cinchona plantation. I have got a copy of the list given by him. It was stated that Government shops were opened for the supply of ration at concession rates to all the workers of the plantation. Shops have no doubt been opened, but what do they give?—only rice at the rate of 4 seers per rupee—no salt, no sugar, no mustard oil, no *dal*—nothing of the kind. *Dal* is supplied in place of rice. If anybody takes *dal*, then the quota of rice is reduced to that extent. *Atta* can be the substitute for rice, but I wonder how *dal* could be made the substitute. All other things except rice the coolies have to buy from the black-market.

Another concession was the allowance of one anna per *hazira* to those who have no land for cultivation though it was declared on the 18th

February, 1944, but the effect was given only from October, 1944, that is, after nine months. There are other petty matters.

All these concessions were given to the coolies as a consequence to the unhappy incident that took place on the 18th May, 1943. Series of supplementary questions were put by Dr. Sanyal during the last July Session in order to elicit from the Government that the fault was entirely of the coolies and of the European managers. Let the House judge as to whose fault it was after I narrate the whole history of the incident. Immediately after the incident His Excellency the Governor of Bengal visited the Mungpoo plantation and some time in August, 1943, the Hon'ble Mr. Barma visited the garden. I was repeatedly requested by the Hon'ble Minister to be present at the time of enquiry. The Hon'ble Minister and myself stayed there for five days and made a joint enquiry. During the enquiry it was found out that the coolies had lots of grievances but even then the unhappy incident would not have taken place but for the hot-headedness of Dr. M . Sen, the Quinologist. The main grievance of the coolies was the insufficient quantity of rice supplied to them. They were given rice at the rate of 7 *pawas* per head per week. The coolies approached the Superintendent and the General Manager several times through their Sardars. The Manager told them that he had no hand in that. As a matter of fact, the Superintendent had taken away all the powers from the Manager and the Manager was just like a clerk only. When they found that nothing was being done by the authorities and it was difficult to work in the garden with only a *pawa* of rice per day, they decided to approach the Superintendent in a body; so on the 18th May, 1943, about 1,000 coolies went to the office. Unfortunately only a few coolies reached the office beforehand, and while they were explaining their difficulty to the Superintendent, Dr. M. Sen, who is notorious in uttering filthy language, came forward and abused the coolies and asked them to go to Nepal to get more rice. While one of the coolies was trying to explain to him, Dr. Sen took out his slipper and beat him. Well, nobody could tolerate such thing, at least the hill people cannot at all tolerate this sort of treatment. The cooly at once gave him a boxing. As there were only three coolies inside the office, the clerks and the officers including the Superintendent began to beat these three coolies with the ruler, chairs, with whatever they got. Fortunately or unfortunately all the coolies arrived by that time and when they saw that some of their men were being beaten inside, they broke open the doors and windows which were closed from inside and began to assault all the Babus. They were so much enraged that they beat three of their own men who tried to help the Doctor. One of the coolies who was beaten by his own men in the melee ran to the General Manager and informed him. The General Manager hurried to the office and told the coolies that he would at once, at his own responsibility, give the rice at the rate of four seers per head to the coolies which pacified the crowd. As a matter of fact, the Government had long before sanctioned to give rice at the rate of 4 seers per head but the Superintendent, taking the advantage of the ignorance of the illiterate coolies, did not give what was sanctioned by the Government.

Another important grievance was the payment of the dearness allowance. Though the Government had sanctioned the dearness allowance to the coolies and it was published in the paper long before, they were not given. After the incident the coolies were given the dearness allowance for six months with arrears.

Other grievances were the appointments of clerks in the office and the Overseers. One post of a clerk was vacant. Many Matriculate hill boys had applied but one Bengali boy who was only a Matriculate was appointed. It was given out at the time of appointment that he was an I.A. but it was found out during the enquiry held by the Labour Officer that he was only a Matriculate. One Bengali gentleman who was only an I.A. was

appointed as the Overseer though there were hillmen graduates who had applied. When I enquired from the Superintendent in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister why such injustice was done he at first wanted to give me the bluff by saying that no qualified hillmen applied. When I gave him a few names of the boys who had applied and who were not even called for interview, the Superintendent could not say anything. Even one post of the Head Gangman, *i.e.*, the head *chaprasi* was going to be filled up by a Bengali. One man had actually reached the Riyang railway station, the last station to go to Mungpoo but unfortunately for him he arrived on the day when the incident took place at Mungpoo. He heard the news at the railway station and returned from there.

The main object of the Superintendent is to have all the manual work done by the hill people and all other easy and respectable jobs to be done by the Bengalis. I found this sort of attitude not only in this garden but in many other Indian-managed Tea Gardens.

Now, Sir, I want to make it clear to the Government that Darjeeling is the only small district where hill people can expect to get some decent jobs and Government services. If we are not given chance even in Darjeeling where are we to go? We cannot compete with other communities of Bengal. We are educationally, economically very, very backward. Government have not done anything so far for the education of the backward hill tribe as has been done for other communities, such as, Muslims, Scheduled Castes, Anglo-Indians, etc. In the Government of India Act, 1935, we have been put in the category of General Caste Hindus of Bengal as a result of which we have to compete with the whole of Bengal for Government service. When even the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes who are far advanced cannot compete with the Caste Hindus how is it possible for us to compete? Give us the facilities, let the Government give at least one college in Darjeeling district and then we will be prepared to compete. I appeal to Government to make special provisions for the education and appointments of the hill people who are mostly Gurkhas, as has been done in the case of other communities. Gurkha is not a nation to be ignored and neglected in this way. When India gets her independence, I think, it will be the Gurkhas, the mighty martial race of the East, who will come forward to defend India against the outside aggressors.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I was pained and surprised at the observations made by my esteemed friend Mr. Damber Singh Gurung, and although my name was not tabled I seek an opportunity of explaining the situation a little further from the point of view that I had formed after applying my mind to study the situation and elicit fuller information in this connection.

I have my sympathy for the just claims of the hillmen not merely in regard to posts, appointments and contracts in the hills, but also as sons of the soil throughout Bengal, and I can assure him that wherever there would be such questions we, at any rate, from this side of the House would stand by them with all the sincerity and emphasis that we can command. But, Sir, India has had numerous cases of divisions created in her rank only with a view to perpetuate our slavery and let Mr. Gurung not seek to create a further division amongst ourselves only with a view to give special advantage to members of a particular community. What have we found from the speech of Mr. Gurung? On the one hand he has accused the Bengalees serving at the institute; on the other hand he has praised the European Tea Garden Managers. That is exactly the reason for all this trouble at the Mungpoo Cinchona Factory. For some years past there has been going on a sinister attempt by a section of the Anglo-Indian and European community residing on the hills and enjoying very valuable property over the entire Darjeeling district to create a division between

Bengalees and Hillmen, and.....(Mr. A. F. STARK: Nonsense.) You know nothing about it. Mr. Stark, you must have better manners. You are a fool and an idiot. You know nothing about it.

I tell you that we know definitely that——

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Is that allowed, Sir?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYL: When Mr. Osbourne was the Superintendent of the Forest Department of Mungpoo——

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. A. F. STARK: On a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, a point of order has been raised.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Whether Dr. Sanyal is allowed to abuse an honourable member in the House in the manner he did.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Fool is only a paraphrase of nonsense.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: But you cannot abuse an honourable member. You are a nonsense liar.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is desirable that abusive language should not be used.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: By either side.

Mr. SPEAKER: Certainly.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: He should withdraw that. We tell you, Sir, that unless Dr. Sanyal is removed from the House we will not allow him to speak.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Dr. Malik, you have become a very great patron of the Europeans. The Europeans can protect themselves without you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, do not quarrel amongst yourselves.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: A few years ago in the Forest Department—in the Cinchona Department—an attempt was made to create feelings against the Bengalees over there. (Shouts of "No, no" and table thumpings from the Coalition and European benches.)

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: He must withdraw that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Europeans having failed in their attempt went on trying to create difficulties in the way of Bengalee residents in the hills.....(Cries of "Withdraw, withdraw" and table thumpings from the Coalition and European benches.)...and those friends in the opposite who are not aware of the difficulties ought to realise that in this sinister game the Hindus and Muslims all alike were attacked and the net result was that in the Mungpoo Cinchona Factory an engineered attempt was made to create labour trouble and the labourers were incited to go and have an unprovoked assault on the civilian staff of the cinchona department. (Cries of "Withdraw, withdraw" and table thumpings from the Coalition and European benches.)

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, Dr. Malik raised a point of order and pointed out that Dr. Sanyal had used abusive and unparliamentary language with reference to another member of the House and as you are the custodian of the privileges of this House he asked you to look into the matter and to redress the grievances of the members on this side of the House.

Sir, you have not yet given any ruling. You have only said that such language must not be used. That is so far as future is concerned. Since Dr. Sanyal has already used such language, as Speaker of this House I ask you, I request you to compel Dr. Sanyal to withdraw the remark.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I have made it clear that I said that in retort to another term used. If the other gentleman withdraws I have no objection to withdraw my remark though I said that by way of a retort and I was only paraphrasing "nonesense" into "fool and idiot". If the other member withdraws I will also certainly withdraw.

Mr. SPEAKER: As for myself it is unfortunate that while a gentleman is speaking others should interrupt him and naturally when there is objectionable interruption, sometimes language is used which would not otherwise have been used. Here if I could catch properly, there was an interjection which was taken exception to by Dr. Sanyal and he used a language which certainly is abusive language and which ordinarily ought not to have been used in debates in this House. That is why I said that this sort of language ought not to be used because provocative language was used by another member. If both sides withdraw, the matter will become very simple.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a very different thing. When a person says "nonsense" he does not refer to a particular person, but "fool and idiot" refer to a particular person. That is objectionable and unparliamentary. The word "nonesense" is not unparliamentary. If a member says "nonsense" he does not refer to any particular person.

Mr. SPEAKER: To call a member "fool and idiot" is certainly highly objectionable, but I do not know what the exact language used was. As far as I understood, there was "nonsense" from all sides and something like "foolish" from the other side. That is what I understood.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: I distinctly heard him saying to Mr. Stark "you are a fool and an idiot".

Mr. SPEAKER: I will just have a transcript of the entire thing and will look into the matter very carefully and then I will decide what is to be done.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In the meantime Dr. Sanyal should not be allowed to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, particularly about the cinchona factory the matter was very carefully gone into by the Chief Minister Sir Nazimuddin himself and if he had been here he would be in a position to allay the feelings in this House considerably, because it was he who actually came to know of the deliberate attempt of certain sections to create feelings where there was none. The complaint of the experts and the supervising staff of the cinchona factory was that a certain Anglo-Indian employee who was holding a responsible post near about was deliberately inciting the labour staff to go against the Bengali Superintendent of the Institution, which ultimately culminated in the unhappy incident which led to stoppage of work of that very important Institution for some time.

With regard to the statement that Dr. M. Sen actually slapped anybody, I can tell the House that I know Dr. Sen too well from his childhood. He is a meek young-looking person with a feminine voice and also he is a scientist of reputation and cannot physically have the inclination or courage to slap anyone far less a labourer. I can definitely state that if Dr. Sen had actually slapped anyone, he would be the first person to come forward and state so and

admit it and own it up and, if possible, with the necessary apology for that conduct. He is a gentleman and a scientist of reputation. I expect that he at least should not be impugned in this House in the manner in which it has been sought to be done.

With regard to the establishment of permanent peace in that place, no one would be more anxious than myself in this House, because we want quinine manufactured in larger quantities without any cause of disturbance or any trouble between the employer and the employee. I would request the Hon'ble Minister not to give credence to a story of this kind but to make personal investigations into the conditions and the feeling that has been engineered in the whole of the area not only in Mungpu but in other places, the solution of which will in some form or other be happy. I hope Mr. Gurung and the hillmen will in future, if such occasions arise, seek to settle terms with non-official co-operation with the help of nationalist leaders and we promise to look into the grievances of hillmen to the best of our ability and with sincerest attempts that are possible.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the cut motion of Mr. P. Banerji I like to say this much. His cut motion wants to raise the question about Government's failure to encourage private enterprise. I may say, Sir, that Government is always anxious to encourage private enterprise, but there are many other things to be considered in that connection. But I can assure the House that Government will always help private enterprise both in the cities and in the mufassal; and if anybody comes forward and approaches Government for such help, Government will certainly sympathetically consider such proposals.

With regard to production of cinchona, we have extended the plantations. At Mungpoo 3,370 acres are under cultivation; at Munsong 3,630 acres are under cultivation; at Rongo 600 acres are under cultivation; and at Latpanchar where plantation was started only last year, i.e., 1944, 50 acres are under cultivation. I also like to say for the information of this House that these plantations are situated in different places. Mungpoo is 35 miles from Darjeeling; Munsong is 32 miles from Mungpoo; Rongo is 80 miles from Mungpoo; and Latpanchar is 14 miles from Mungpoo. As I have said, these plantations are situated in different places. We are trying our best to have intensive as well as extensive plantation. Formerly, the hillmen used to have planting at a spacing of 4′×4′. Nowadays, we are planting at a spacing of 2′×2′, so that we shall now have four times the number of plants that were originally planted.

With regard to production of quinine, we have increased the capacity by 30 per cent. Normally there were 50,000 lbs. but this year we are getting 75,000 lbs. The normal consumption of quinine in the province is 80,000 lbs. and therefore we hope that very shortly we shall be able to reach the normal consumption because we have already reached 75,000 lbs. We are not sitting idle and nobody can say that we are not doing anything.

With regard to Mr. Gurung's grievances, I may say that there was a very strong feeling among the hillmen. As a result of that there was an incident on the 18th May, 1943. We have tried our best to allay their grievances. The Deputy Commissioner went there and made enquiries about the unfortunate incident. There was a clique of hillmen, but as there was no evidence we could not do anything for protecting the prestige of the officers. It is also not correct that the Europeans and Anglo-Indians are inciting feelings. Recently this year there were 20 incidents in which the European Managers of the plantations were about to be attacked; but fortunately the same were averted in time and nothing serious took place. One European Manager was attacked. Therefore it is not true that Europeans and Anglo-Indians are inciting feelings.

With regard to the grievances of the coolies, I may say that the coolies of the Mungpoo plantation and other places are much better off than any coolies in other tribal areas.

Sir, I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Mr. P. Banerji that the demand of Rs. 15,98,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Government failure to encourage private enterprises to increase the cultivation of cinchona was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 15,98,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about extension of cinchona culture was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari Barma that a sum of Rs. 15,98,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" was then put and agreed to.

47—Miscellaneous Departments.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 7,65,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,65,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (*i*) the maladministration of the Labour Department; (*ii*) failure to ensure improved wages and better conditions of work for labourers in the province and (*iii*) delay in the settlement of Labour disputes.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,65,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the organisation of the Provincial Statistical Bureau.

With regard to the latter question, viz., the Provincial Statistical Bureau, we have already pointed out the necessity for a proper organisation of this Statistical Bureau for various statistical investigations in the province. I am not yet convinced that the manner in which the Government is proceeding is on right lines in that connection. Instead of taking the assistance of one particular individual, however high his reputation may be in high quarters, it should be necessary to co-ordinate the efforts of the Institute as a whole or to set up a separate institution of its own for collecting statistical materials and obtaining result therefrom. I leave it at that. I have hardly any time to go into details.

With regard to the question of maladministration of the Labour Department, my friend Mr. B. Mukherji will speak in detail. I only formally move the motion.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED BOKAINAGARI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,65,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the fixation of jute price to the prejudice of the interest of the growers and the failure of the Government to increase the minimum price to Rs. 20 at least.

আমাদের মৌলভী ওয়ালীয়ার রহমান সাহেবের নামে যে ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব আছে সেটা আমি উত্থাপন করছি। আমার প্রস্তাবের উদ্দেশ্য এই যে Government পাটচাষীদের পাটের উচ্চতম দর বাঁধিয়া দিয়াছেন, তাহাতে পাটচাষীদের সর্বনাশ করিয়াছেন এবং নিম্নতম মূল্য কুড়ি টাকা বাঁধিয়া দিতে অকর্তব্যকার্য হইয়াছেন। সে বিষয়ে আলোচনা করবার জন্য আমি প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত করছি।

আজ বাংলার পাটচাষীরা এই বর্তমান মন্ত্রী-সভার উপরে যে ধারণা পোষণ করে সেইটা বলছি। ভাল পাটের মূল্য ১৯৲ টাকা, চিমাটা ১৭৲ টাকা এবং নীচুটার কোন দর ঠিক নাই, মাটির দরে ছাড়লেও চলে।

এই যে ব্যবস্থা করছেন, এই ব্যবস্থার ফলে বাংলার পাটচাষী বর্তমান মন্ত্রী-সভার উপরে যে ধারণা পোষণ করে এবং তাদের যে উপাধিতে ভূষিত করেছে সেই কথাটাই আমার বলবার। আমিও নিজে একজন পাটচাষী, বাংলার পাটচাষীদের স্বরে সুর মিলিয়ে সেই কথাটাই পরিষদে বলতে আমি বাধ্য। তারা আজ বাংলার মন্ত্রী-সভাকে চোর-ডাকাত এবং বর্গীর আড্ডা বলে উপাধি করেছে এবং পাটচাষীদের ছেলে ঘুম পাড়াবার সময় সেই পরাণো যে গানটা গাইতে আরম্ভ করেছে—

"ছেলে ঘুমোলো পাড়া জুড়োলো বর্গী এল দেশে
বুলবুলিতে ধান খেয়ে গেল খাজনা দেবো কিসে?"

আজকে এই মন্ত্রী-সভার আমলে বিশেষ করে বাংলার চাষীদের উপর যে রকম অবিচার-অনাচার করা হচ্চে তার ফলে তারা নিশ্চয় ভাবতে আরম্ভ করেছে যে এই মন্ত্রী-সভার ভিতর দিয়ে বাংলা দেশে একটা বর্গীর দল গজিয়ে উঠেছে। এবং এই পাট যে বাংলার চাষীদের টাকা পাওয়ার একমাত্র জিনিষ সেই চাষীদের পাটের দর কলিকাতার বাজারে এরকমভাবে উচ্চ দর বাঁধিয়া দেওয়ার সময় তাদের বিবেচনা করা উচিত ছিল তাঁরা যে ব্যবস্থাটা করছেন সেটা ন্যায্য কিনা। সেই ব্যবস্থাটাকে বাংলার পাটচাষীরা গাঁজাখুরী ব্যবস্থা বলেই বলে থাকে। আজকে বিচার্য্য যে যে পাটটা চার পয়সা দিয়ে কিনতো সেটা এখন এক টাকা দিয়ে আনতে হচ্চে; সেখানে ১৬ গুণ দাম বেড়ে গিয়েছে। যে গরুটা দশ টাকা দিয়ে কিনতো সেটা ২০০৲ টাকা কিনছে সেখানে কুড়ি গুণ দাম বেড়ে গিয়েছে। যে কাপড়টা এক টাকায় কিনতো সেটা দশ টাকায় কেনে; সে যায়গায় দশ গুণ দর বেড়ে গিয়েছে। সেই অবস্থার সঙ্গে অনুপাত করে পাটের দর যেখানে পূর্ব্বে ৫।৭।৮৲ টাকা পেতো তার সঙ্গে সামঞ্জস্য করে যদি পাটের দর বাঁধা হ'তো তাহলে অন্ততঃ পাঁচ গুণও যদি হতো তাহলে নিম্নতম মূল্য ৪০।৫০৲ টাকা হওয়া উচিত ছিল; এবং তিন টাকা দরে যে পাট বিক্রী করে চাষীরা সেই পাটের দর অন্ততঃ পাঁচ গুণ হিসাবেও যদি ধরা হ'তো তা হলেও অন্ততঃ ১৫৲ টাকা এই পাটের নিম্নতম মূল্য হওয়া উচিত ছিল। আমার এই কথা বিশেষ করে বলবার যে আজ বাংলার পাটচাষীরা এইরকমভাবে সর্বনাশের মুখে এসে পড়েছে; তার একমাত্র কারণ হচ্চে এই পরিষদ সভার কয়েকটি সাদা চামড়ার সাহেব যারা এই দেশের পাটের ব্যাপারী এবং পাটকে লুটপাট করে নিয়ে শুধু তাদের সন্তুষ্ট করে রাখবার জন্যই তার ব্যবস্থা তাঁরা করেছেন, না হলে তাঁদের মন্ত্রিত্বের গদীতে টিকে থাকা অসম্ভব। সেই জন্যই এই ব্যবস্থা করে বাংলার পাটচাষীদের সর্বনাশ করেছেন। এই কয়েকটি কথা বলে আমি আমার প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করছি।

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলা দেশের শিল্প শ্রমিকদের অবস্থা এতটা শোচনীয় যে সেটা এই Houseএর অধিকাংশ লোকেরই জানা নেই। তারা পূর্ব্বেতে গড়ে বিশ থেকে পঁচিশ টাকা মাইনে পেতো। ইতিমধ্যে জিনিষপত্র অত্যন্ত দুর্মূল্য হয়ে গিয়েছে। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে মাগ্‌গি ভাতা তারা কিছু পায়, ৫।৭।৮৲ টাকা এবং সস্তা জিনিষও পায়, তাও খুব জোর ৭।৮।৯৲ টাকা। যারা সবচেয়ে বেশী মাগ্‌গি ভাতা পায়, তাদের সেখানেও কেউ মোট মিলিয়ে ১৭।১৮৲ টাকার বেশী পায় না। অথচ কিছুদিন আগেও ছিল price index ২৬০ তার মানে, এরা যত মাগ্‌গি ভাতা এবং মাইনে পান তা মিলিয়ে ৩২ থেকে ৪০এর ভিতর। এবং যদি ঐ price index ধরা যায়, তাহলে পরে এই টাকায় আজকে ক্রয় করবার শক্তি ১৩।। থেকে ১৬ পর্য্যন্ত, মানে শতকরা ৩৪ বা ৩৫ ভাগের চেয়েও কমে গিয়েছে। গত বৎসর যখন ১৫০র উপরে price index ছিল তখন তাদের আয় অর্দ্ধেকেরও বেশী কমে গিয়েছে এবং এরই ফলে বাংলা দেশের শ্রমিকদের অধিকাংশের যা কিছু সামান্য রূপা চাঁদি ছিল সে সমস্ত বিক্রী করে বহু শ্রমিকেরই চালাতে হয়েছে এবং বহু রকমের অসুস্থতা এবং সমস্ত পরিবারদের অত্যন্ত বিপন্ন অবস্থার ভিতর দিয়ে এক বৎসর দুই বৎসর যেতে হয়েছে। কাজেই এর থেকেই বোঝা যাচ্ছে যে বিবাদের কতখানি কারণ রয়েছে, labour disputeএর কত বড় কারণ রয়েছে। কিন্তু এই dispute সম্বন্ধে, এ সম্বন্ধে, বাংলা Governmentএর এ-পর্য্যন্ত কোন নীতি নেই মাগ্‌গি ভাতা সম্বন্ধে। কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার প্রায় এক বছর আগে, বছর খানেক ধরে বহু গবেষণা করে, Gregory Committee সিদ্ধান্ত করেন এবং গত জানুয়ারী মাসে সে সিদ্ধান্ত হয়ে গিয়েছে, এ বৎসর নয় আগের বৎসর,—এবং সেখানে স্থির হয় যেমন যেমন জিনিষের দর বাড়বে, সেই অনুসারে seventy five per cent. dearness allowanceও তখনই তখনই হবে। কিন্তু এ পর্য্যন্ত ভারতীয় সরকার সেই Committee'র সিদ্ধান্ত সম্বন্ধে কোন উচ্চবাচ্য করেন নি। ভারতীয় সরকার না করতে পারেন, কেননা সেটা হোলো স্বৈরাচারী শাসন; তাদের কোন দায়ীত্ববোধ নেই, জনসাধারণের সঙ্গে কোন দায়ীত্ব নেই। কিন্তু বাংলার সরকার, বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী এ দায়িত্ব এড়াতে পারেন না। তাঁরা responsible এবং জনসাধারণের প্রতি তাঁদের দায়ীত্ব আছে। অতএব কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার যেহেতু কোন নীতি এ বিষয় নির্দ্ধারণ করেননি, অতএব বাংলা সরকারও ২ বৎসর ঘুমিয়ে থাকবেন, এ বিষয়ে কোন নীতি

নির্দ্ধারণ করবেন না যে dearness allowance কত হওয়া উচিত এ অত্যন্ত শোচনীয় বিষয়। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় যে বাংলার সরকার এখন যে অবস্থায় আছেন সেখানে তাঁদের পক্ষে কোন নীতি অনুসরণ করাও অত্যন্ত কঠিন। কেননা আমরা দেখতে পাই যে তাঁদের যে Labour Department সে departmentএর মত একটা বাজে department সমস্ত বাংলা সরকারের নেই। Labour Commissionerএর ঘাড়েতে ৫টা-৬টা আরো দায়ীত্বপূর্ণ কাজ আছে। একটি Labour Commissioner; তাঁর নীচে যাঁরা Assistant Commissioner প্রভৃতি তাঁদের অবস্থা হচ্ছে এই যে—একদিকে ক্রোড়পতি এবং European মালিক যাঁরা শুধু বাংলার প্রভু নয়, ভারত সরকারের উপরও প্রভুত্ব করবার যাদের সামর্থ্য আছে এই রকম মালিক একদিকে; আর একদিকে হচ্ছে অত্যন্ত দরিদ্র নিরন্ন শ্রমিক। এবং তার মাঝখানে অত্যন্ত অসহায় পঙ্গু বাংলার সরকার, এবং তাঁদের নিজেদের নির্ভর করতে হয় এই বহু কোটিপতি, বহু শক্তিশালী এই European সমাজের উপরে। এঁদের উপরে তাঁদের নিজেদের অস্তিত্ব নির্ভর করতে হয়। অতএব তাঁদের সাহসই হয় না। এটুকু আমরা দেখেছি যে যেখানে Europeanরা যে সমস্ত ব্যাপারে একটু দৃঢ়তা গ্রহণ করে সেখানে তাদের সাহস হয় না। আমি জানি এমন সমস্ত উদাহরণ, যে Hughes সাহেব, Labour Commissioner, তাঁকে তারা হটিয়ে, উড়িয়ে দেয়। তবুও তিনি শ্রেতাঙ্গ বলে কোন কোন স্থানে হয়ত পাত্তা পেয়ে থাকেন। কিন্তু আমাদের কৃষ্ণকায় যে সমস্ত Labour Commissioners আছেন তাঁরা এই সমস্ত disputes নিয়ে গেলে mill gate থেকেই তাঁদের তাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয় (A VOICE: এ কখনও হয়নি)। আমি আপনাদের কাছে নাম বলতে পারি, কিন্তু নাম বলা নিরর্থক কারণ আপনাদের সে সাহস নেই যে কিছু করতে পারেন। যে Assistant Commissioner আমাকে বলেছেন আজ যদি নাম করা হয়, তাহলে সে বেচারীর চাকরীটা সম্বন্ধে কিছু হবে, এর চেয়ে বেশী কিছু হবে না। আমি যদি assurance পাই যে তাঁরা enquiry করবেন তাহলে আমি Governmentএর কাছে নাম এবং সে সমস্ত, একটি নয় বহু কিছু details দিতে প্রস্তুত আছি। এবং যারা শ্রমিক আন্দোলন করে তারা প্রত্যেকেই জানে যে Labour Department গেলে পর Labour Departmentএর Officerরা বলেন যে আপনাদের এই ভাব যতক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত থাকবে, কিছুই করতে পারবো না, আপনারা strike করে বেরিয়ে আসুন, তার পরে দেখা যাবে কিছু করা যায় কি না। অর্থাৎ strike একটা weapon যে weaponটা ব্যবহার না করলে Labour Department মালিককে কিছু করাতে পারেন না। Bengal Government Pressএ তার deputation after deputation করে মাসের পর মাস চলে গিয়েছে তাতে কোন ফল দেখতে পাওয়া যায় নি, এবং যে মুহূর্ত্তে তারা strike করলে, Labour Commissioner দার্জিলিং থেকে দৌড়ে এলেন, এসে তাদের Presidentকে phone করে বললেন যে মহাশয় মৃণালকান্তি বাবু আপনার বাড়ীতে আমি আসছি। মৃণাল বাবু বললেন, আবশ্যক নেই, আমি আপনার Pressএ যাচ্ছি। এটি হয়না, যতক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত না strike হয়। Sir Nazimuddinও সমস্ত Departmentএরই খবর রেখে থাকেন। কাজেই Labour Departmentএরও নিশ্চয় খবর রাখেন। All-India Trade Union Congressএর Bengal Committee যে memorandum প্রস্তুত করেছে আমি আপনার মারফৎ এই বাংলার সরকারকে, শুধু labour মন্ত্রী নয়, অন্যান্য মন্ত্রীদেরও বলছি, অনুগ্রহ করে সেটা পড়ে দেখবেন। আজ সেই লম্বা list পড়বার সময় নেই। এক-একটা জায়গা থেকে deputation গিয়েছে কিছু করতে পারেনি, এবং এক-একটা Industry থেকে কত দিন আগে memorandum পাঠিয়ে adjudication চাওয়া হয়েছে কত মাস পরে সে বিষয় adjudicator appoint করা হয়, করলে পরেও সে adjudicator এক তদন্ত করতে করতেই সময় যায়, শেষ হয় না। adjudicator নিযুক্ত হয়েছেন এই Chief Presidency Magistrate; তাঁর ঘাড়ে সমস্ত ভার চাপানো হয়েছে। যাঁর কাজের সীমা-পরিসীমা নেই, তিনিই একমাত্র adjudicator। এবং সারা বাংলা দেশের পনর-বিশ লক্ষ লোকের dispute একটা over-worked Chief Presidency Magistrate বা over-worked Labour Commissioner, তাঁদের উপর দিয়ে পরমনিশ্চিন্ত মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী বাংলা দেশের ভাগ্যনিয়ন্তা হয়ে বসে আছেন। এ সম্বন্ধে তাঁরা কোন কথা কন্‌না। প্রতিদিন যে ব্যাপার হয় দুটো চারটে দশটা লোকের জবাব হয় এবং যেহেতু আজকে ভারত এবং বাংলার শ্রমিক এই নীতি গ্রহণ করেছে যে তারা এই যুদ্ধের ভিতরেতে এবং যখন সমস্ত জিনিষের অভাব, তখন তারা strike করে production কমাবে না। তাদের এই patriotism এবং তাদের এই অসাধারণ জাতীয় আন্তর্জাতিকতার প্রতি নিষ্ঠা এটা হচ্ছে তাদের মস্ত বড় crime। তার জন্য তাদের দেশের জনসাধারণ পর্য্যন্ত তাদের ভুল বোঝে; মনে করে তারা British সাম্রাজ্যবাদের agent হয়ে পড়েছে। এক দিক দিয়ে সেই দুঃখ এবং যাতনা আমাদের স্বীকার করতে হবে, অন্য দিক দিয়ে এই নীতি অনুসরণ করার ফলে যাদের হাতে শাসন এবং মালিক যারা তারা পরম নিশ্চিন্তে কোটি কোটি টাকা লাভ করছে এবং এখান থেকে তারা super profits

tax দেবে কিন্তু কিছুতেই শ্রমিককে bonus বা wages দেবে না। ঠিক তাদের হাতেই ছেড়ে দ্যায় এরা। এখন control শাসনের নিয়ম; কিন্তু অন্য দিক দিয়ে Labour Departmentএর Free Trade কিন্তু সম্পূর্ণ Free Trade নয়। কারণ সেখানে Defence of India Rulesএর বহু Sectionএর ভিতর দিয়ে strike প্রভৃতি একেবারে বেআইনী ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে। Strike বেআইনী ঘোষণা করার মানে হ'লো সেখানে control of labour. কিন্তু অন্য দিকে যেখানে control হওয়া উচিৎ capitalistদের প্রতি, সে controlএর নাম ত এই সমস্ত Defence of India Rulesএর ভিতরে আছে, কিন্তু সেই control দিয়ে আসতে গেলে যে নীতির প্রয়োজন, তার জন্য যা machinery প্রয়োজন, যে Court প্রভৃতির প্রয়োজন তা আজ পর্য্যন্ত বাংলা সরকারের সে রকম কোন নীতি নির্দ্ধারিত হয়নি। এবং সেই হেতু তাঁরা এই রকমে এই সমস্ত কোটিপতি স্বেচ্ছাচারী মালিকরা দিনের পর দিন যুদ্ধের ভিতর দিয়ে কোটি কোটি টাকা আরো বেশী উপরি অর্জন করে যাচ্ছে। অথচ এখানে আজ তাঁদের control নেই। তাদের কাছ থেকে কিছু নিয়ে এই বঞ্চিত শ্রমিকদের দেওয়া হয় না যা তাদের ন্যায্য পাওনা। সেটা তাদের অন্যায্য পাওনা নয়; অর্থাৎ যুদ্ধের পূর্ব্বে তার যে standard ছিল সেই standard থেকে সে নেমে এসেছে। ১০৲ কি ৪০৲ তার রোজগার এখন। শুধু সেই জায়গায় পৌঁছানো যেখানে পূর্ব্বে ছিল। তাই wages বাড়া প্রয়োজন। এখানে wages বাড়া দূরের কথা পূর্ব্বে যে standard ছিল তা থেকেও নেমে গিয়েছে। সেই standardকে রক্ষা করবার দায়ীত্ব বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর আছে, কিন্তু তাঁরা সে বিষয়ে সম্পূর্ণ অক্ষম, অপারগ এবং আমি জানি বাংলার যিনি ভারপ্রাপ্ত Industry বিভাগের সচীব, তাঁর কতটুকু সময় যায়, তাঁর কতটুকু আরামের ব্যাঘাত হয় এই labour disputeএর ব্যাপার সম্বন্ধে, দশ লক্ষ লোকের সম্বন্ধে চিন্তা করতে? কেন এ রকম portfolio তিনি নেবেন? তাঁর উচিত হচ্চে যে দিন ও রাত্রি এ বিষয়ে সজাগ থাকা, বাংলায় সেই রকম machinery সৃষ্টি করা যাতে যথেষ্ট লোক থাকে যারা এই disputesএর মীমাংসা করতে পারে। তাহলে প্রতিদিন সেখানে লোকের জবাব লাঞ্ছনা যে হয় তার প্রতিবাদ আজ হোতো এবং তখন চৈতন্য হোতো। আজকে Tramএ আমরা strike করি না; তার ফলে হয়েছে কি না আজ এক বৎসর আগে Tramএ চার জন লোকের জবাব হয়েছিল, তার উত্তরে তৎক্ষণাৎ strike হয়েছিল কিন্তু সে strike বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হয়, যে সে বিষয়ে তদন্ত করে দেখা হউক যে সেই সব লোকের জবাব হতে পারে কি না। আজ পর্য্যন্ত সেই বিষয়ে Labour Departmentএর সময় হয়নি যে সে বিষয়ে অনুসন্ধান করে কোন সিদ্ধান্তে এসে পৌঁছায়। এ রকম নাম করতে গেলে পর এখানে ঘণ্টার পর ঘণ্টা সময় লাগবে যে সমস্ত বাংলা দেশে শ্রমিকদের প্রতি যে অবিচার এবং যেসকল অত্যাচার চলেছে। এ সম্বন্ধে সমস্ত তথ্য বলতে গেলে পর বহু সময় লাগে। অতএব আমাদের এখানে দাবী হচ্চে যে আপনাদের Court তৈরী হোক যে সমস্ত ব্যাপার চলেছে সেই সমস্ত ব্যাপারের মীমাংসার জন্য। আমাদের দাবী হচ্চে যে Adjudicator নিযুক্ত করা হোক; এবং যখন আমাদের adjudication করা হবে, অতি কম সময়ের ভিতর adjudicationএর ব্যাপার নিষ্পত্তি হবার ব্যবস্থা হোক। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমাদের দাবী হচ্চে যে Enquiry Committee হোক্। রেলেতে Enquiry Committee হয়েছে, কিন্তু juteএ যে fabulous টাকা ওঠে, শতকরা ৩০০।৪০০।৫০০৲ dividend এবং সমস্ত ভারতবর্ষের মধ্যে লজ্জার বিষয় যে jute industry'র যে worker ভারতবর্ষের সমস্ত Textile workerদের মধ্যে নিকৃষ্টতম অবস্থায় আছে। আহাবাদাবাদ, বম্বে, সেখানে average মাইনে হচ্চে ৩৪।৩৬৲; বাংলা দেশে jute workerদের average মাইনে হোলো ২২৲। তবে সেখানে dearness allowance..... এখানে ১৪।১৬৲ এর চেয়ে scandalous জিনিষ হতে পারে না। আজ পর্য্যন্ত jute industry সম্বন্ধে তদন্ত Committee কেন হয় নি যে দেখবার জন্য jute industry বাংলার শ্রমিককে এর চেয়ে বেশী মাইনে দেবার যোগ্যতা এবং সামর্থ্য রক্ষা করে কিনা। এর সম্বন্ধে আমরা তদন্ত চেয়েছি, এ তদন্ত আজ পর্য্যন্ত পায়নি। সমস্ত Union মিলে চেয়েছে যে Enquiry Committee করা হোক, এ পর্য্যন্ত ভাল করে কোন তদন্ত হোলো না যে jute industry ভিতর কি দেওয়ার সামর্থ্য আছে। বাংলার পাট থেকে বাংলার চাষী বঞ্চিত এবং বাংলার পাট-শিল্প থেকে বাংলার শ্রমিক বঞ্চিত। এইভাবে আমাদের যে এত অজস্র টাকা ব্যয় হচ্চে এর সম্বন্ধে তদন্ত committeeর মত চাচ্ছি; চাচ্ছি আমরা এ সম্বন্ধে adjudication এবং এবম্বিধ machinery industrial court প্রভৃতি যা অত্যন্ত অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে এই সমস্ত ব্যাপারের মীমাংসা করতে পারে। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয়, এ বিষয়েতে আমি দেখতে পাচ্ছি যে এই Houseএর ভিতরেতেই অধৈর্য্যতা। একে তো দুর্ভাগ্য-ক্রমে শনিবারের বার বেলা পড়েছে Labour সম্বন্ধে discussionএর সময়, এবং সেখানেও নিশ্চয় memberদের অধৈর্য্য হবার কারণ আছে, কেননা তাঁদের হয়ত এক বেলা কিছুক্ষণ খাওয়ার দেরী হচ্চে। কিন্তু বাংলার দশ লক্ষ মজুর যে দুই বৎসর এর চেয়ে ঢের বেশী কষ্ট ভোগ করছে এবং সে বিষয়েতে আপনাদের অন্ততঃ আজ একটু অবহিত

হওয়ার প্রয়োজন হয়ে পড়েছে। কেননা অবস্থাটা হচ্চে এই যে, যে কথাটা আমি পূর্ব্বে বলেছি যে বাস্তবিক বাংলার সরকারের এ বিষয়েতে ততখানি শক্তি নেই কো; যার আমি প্রমাণ কিছু পূর্ব্বে দিয়েছিলাম এবং যে list আমরা দিয়েছি সেটা দেখলেই বুঝতে পারবেন যে সাধ্য নেই কো। এই সমস্ত European মহাশক্তিশালী, এদের সঙ্গে পারেন না এবং আজ সমস্ত ব্যাপারেই যে control হয়েছে, সমস্ত ব্যাপারেই যে control হয় তা যেন on behalf of traders; তাদের স্বার্থ ই রাখে, consumer producerদের স্বার্থ না দেখে। শুধু এই নীতিই অত্যন্ত প্রকট হয়েছে। আজ agriculturistsদের ভিতর food grain procurementএর ভিতর দেখতে পাই যে সেখানে এই control নেই যে peasantদের interest দেখে। সেখানে normal tradeএ যে profit তার চেয়ে ঢের বেশী profit আজ থাকে। Governmentএর সমস্ত controlএর ভিতর সেই জিনিষটা দেখা যায়। সেই নীতি Labour Departmentএর ভিতর খুব আগেই প্রকট হয়ে উঠেছে যে যা কিছু control তা সমস্ত এখন capitalistদের স্বার্থ পরিপূর্ণ রক্ষা করবার জন্য control, তার জন্যই Defence of India Rules এবং শ্রমিকদের সেখানে স্বার্থ এসে পড়ে, জনসাধারণের যেখানে স্বার্থ এসে পড়ে সেখানে দেখতে পাওয়া যায় যে control ব্যাহত হয়ে যায়। সেখানে Governmentএর শক্তি এবং সামর্থ্য নেই যে সেখানে তাঁদের সেই control প্রয়োগ করেন। আমার বক্তব্য হচ্চে এই যে Government এর এই নীতি যদি বদলাতে না পারেন তাহলে সত্যি সত্যিই আজ তাঁরা শুধু শ্রমিকদের ক্ষতি করছেন তা নয়। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এটুকু মনে রাখবেন যে বাস্তবিক তাঁরা নিজেদের মস্ত বড় ক্ষতি করছেন; তাঁদের পার্টি র যা সুনাম বাংলা দেশে বহু লোকের ভিতর রয়েছে তা ধীরে ধীরে ক্ষয় হয়ে আসছে। এই রকম অকর্ম্মণ্যভাবে চলার ফলে তাঁরা ধীরে ধীরে পঙ্গু হয়ে যাবেন। এর চেয়ে ঢের বেশী ভাল যে honestly abdicate করে চলে আসা। এর ভেতর দিয়ে তাঁদের যে মর্য্যাদা বাংলার premier party হিসাবে তা থাকতে পারে। কিন্তু এই রকম অসমর্থ পঙ্গুত্বের সঙ্গে যদি কোন নীতিবিহীন হয়ে তাঁরা এইভাবে মন্ত্রিত্ব চালিয়ে যান, তাহলে তাতে শুধু বাংলার শ্রমিকদের ক্ষতি হচ্চে তা নয়, তাঁদের পার্টি র, তাঁদের নিজেদের ভবিষ্যৎই অত্যন্ত রকমে ধ্বংস করে তাঁরা চলেছেন। এইটুকু সাবধান বাণী আমি করে যাচ্ছি।

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir,——

Mr. SPEAKER: I will allow you two minutes, not more than that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I will not inflict any speech. I will read out the statement that I furnished with the adjournment motion the other day.

Mr. SPEAKER: He tabled an adjournment motion and I ruled that out and I said that he would have an opportunity to speak on this occasion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I will read out a statement to illustrate a definite example of a recent occurrence as to how the Labour and Commerce Department of the Government are working and hope that the Hon'ble Minister will kindly intervene immediately and look to the interests of the labourers who are the soul of the industry.

The Government of Bengal gave an award over dispute between the workers and the Burn Co., Ltd., on the 1st March, 1945, the order number being 840 Commerce. *Inter alia*, one condition in the said award, that is, the condition No. 5, laid down that the adult male workers in the factory would receive wages of not less than 12 annas 6 pies per day. The workers used to draw 10 annas 6 pies per day previous to this award and used also to draw in addition an attendance allowance in case their minimum attendance was 23 days per month on the basis of certain percentage over their wages. After the said award had been given by the Government the authorities of the Company issued a notice on the 7th March last discontinuing the attendance allowance from the 4th March. Thereby the intention and the spirit of the said award to give a slight and nominal increment in their very low wages by way of recognition of their legitimate demand, were frustrated. At this the workers as a protest started a stay-in strike from the 15th March last. On the 17th March the Company closed down their factory and again reopened on the 19th March, when the strike

was continuing. The company then drove out the workers from the factory with the help of police. On the day of occurrence, *i.e.*, on the 21st March, at 8-30 a.m., the workers went to the gate of the company at Telkal Ghat, Howrah, only to enquire as to whether their demand for continuing their attendance allowance has been conceded to or not when the *lathi* charge took place. Maulvi Gulzar Khan, Officer-in-charge of the Howrah police-station, was seen to rebuke the constables for the *lathi* charge and seemed to disapprove their action.

I have all relevant papers with me. If the Minister will kindly desire I can help him in the enquiry. He may meet them on deputation or he may attend a meeting which they are going to organise on Monday or Tuesday.

Mr. JOHN LEISK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been strong criticism in this House in connection with the working of the Labour Department. It has been said that there are long delays on the part of the Labour Commissioner's office in dealing with complaints and grievances and it has also been said that there are long delays in the working of the machinery for adjudication.

In our opinion, much of this criticism is unfortunately justified and I must say frankly that the working of the Labour Office gives little cause for satisfaction. In making this statement, Sir, I do not wish to throw the entire blame on the Labour Commissioner. His staff is inadequate both in number and calibre, and he personally is so burdened with other duties that he cannot give proper attention to his duties as Labour Commissioner.

I do, however, blame Government for neglecting an important department. It is unnecessary for me to stress the importance of the industrial area in Bengal as a war producing centre nor do I need to stress the importance of this area in the industrial development which is expected to follow after the war is over. Bengal should have a large Labour Office so equipped and staffed as to enable it to be in close and constant contact with employers and labour and to be abreast of all developments throughout the Province. The function of the Labour Commissioner is not simply to intervene when disputes arise and to attempt to bring about a conciliation. Surely his main duty is to do everything possible to prevent disputes arising at all and, if he is to fulfil this function, he and his officers must obviously be continually touring and acting as travelling representatives selling the workers' point of view to the employers and the employers' point of view to labour and endeavouring to effect a transaction satisfactory to both buyer and seller.

But what is the position. The Labour Commissioner is assisted by a staff consisting of one Deputy Labour Commissioner, three Assistant Labour Commissioners and nine Labour Officers. In addition to his office of Labour Commissioner, he is required to act as Chairman of the National Service Labour Tribunal, Officer-in-charge of the Post-Raid Information Service and as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Unskilled Labour Supply Committee. I understand that he also administers the Trade Union Act. It is therefore not surprising that he is scarcely ever seen in the industrial area. In our opinion, his Assistants are not of a sufficiently high calibre to inspire confidence either amongst labour *or* employers. The process of conciliation is never given a fair chance and in consequence, disputes are referred to adjudication.

I would emphasize, Sir, that in a Province containing such an important industrial area, the Labour Commissioner must be a full time officer not burdened with other duties. I would also emphasize that he must have an adequate staff of sufficient competence and efficiency to inspire confidence amongst employers and labour. The Hon'ble Minister, I know, admits himself that the Labour Commissioner is over-burdened with work and that

his staff is inadequate. I would like to hear from him what action he is taking to relieve the Labour Commissioner of his other duties and to strengthen his staff.

As regards the adjudication procedure, the European Party have, on more than one occasion, expressed the view that there should be a permanent Adjudication Court consisting of a person or persons of high judicial status assisted by Assessors who will advise the Court on technical points. The present system of referring disputes to the Chief Presidency Magistrate who has other onerous judicial duties is not satisfactory. The result has been, on the one hand, an accumulation of disputes awaiting adjudication and, on the other hand, a number of conflicting awards which have placed employers in difficulties both because they are conflicting and because very often the basis of the award is not made known. The question of rates of dearness allowance is a particularly difficult one and I would suggest to the Hon'ble Minister that it is necessary for him to lay down general principles to guide adjudicators in considering rates of dearness allowance.

In our opinion, Sir, the field of subjects which might be considered by the Adjudicator should be restricted to matters arising out of dearness allowance, and that awards made by him should not advance conditions of service already provided for, or about to be provided for, by central legislation.

There is a lack of consistency in the awards made during the past year and no set principles appear to have been followed. The adjudicator has not only been guided by the circumstances peculiar to each case but also apparently by the rigour with which particular issues have been pressed.

It is a matter of urgent necessity that the machinery for adjudication should be improved. The Hon'ble Minister stated in reply to a question that he was taking action to place the present Adjudicator on a permanent basis. I would like to hear from him, Sir, that he definitely intends to set up a permanent Adjudication Court consisting of a person or persons of high judicial status and that the Court will be assisted by Assessors who will advise on technical points.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, before the Hon'ble Minister replies may I make my position clear? I had used certain expressions which had been taken objection to by my friends on the other side. I do realize that it was not quite fair on my part to have used direct attack against an honourable member impugning his personal conduct and I have no hesitation in withdrawing these expressions. It would be noticed, if you refer to the proceedings, that these were directly a result of provocation given to me in course of my observations by my friend Mr. Stark interjecting at a very vital point with the word "nonsense". What I really intended to retort to him was that his interjection was foolish and idiotic. That is all I have got to say.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have got a transcript but as you have withdrawn the expressions I need not read it. It pains me very much to see that the Whips of two of the most well-disciplined parties fell out. I never expected that.

There is one other expression which I should like to draw attention to. I think Dr. Malik used some objectionable expression and I hope he will also withdraw it.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: I withdraw, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, Mr. B. Mukherjee complained that the members of this side were becoming impatient and not prepared to listen. He ought to have realised that it was entirely at the

instance of the Opposition that this demand was put on this particular day. I consider, Sir, it is very unfair to the Minister to raise such an important question at so late a time when everybody is anxious to go and not to give him proper opportunity to reply fully to the debate. Sir, the Opposition benches claim to have greater interest in this particular matter, but I find hardly any of them is present except three or four persons. I shall be very brief.

I will take up the question of jute and in two words I would deal with that matter, although the matter requires a very detailed answer. I would just point out my answer in course of the debate on the adjournment motion, I think, during this session, and in that I have explained the Government position. Only men like Mr. Bokainagari can speak in the manner and way he has spoken. Actually, Sir, Government are very proud of what they have been able to do in respect of jute and its price and the steps they are taking in this connection.

Coming to the Labour question Mr. B. Mukherjee blamed the Department and took all the credit to himself and his party for keeping the country free from strikes and labour troubles, and claimed that it is all due to their anxiety not to adversely affect the war effort. I do not know how far that statement of Mr. Mukherjee will be accepted by anyone. Sir, far from maladministration in the Labour Department I claim that the record of the Labour Department is enviable and I would just refer to the comparatively less trouble and disturbances especially in view of the abnormal conditions prevailing in this Province. I have heard complaints about the Labour Department officers not being available, but I will not take much time of the House except quoting the figures which will show how far the Labour Department has been able to attend to these matters.

Sir, to illustrate this, last year 1,010 individual complaints were received, of which 700 were disposed of. The majority of them resulted in redress of the grievances of workers and still it has been said that the Labour Department is not attending to the disputes. In a great majority of cases, adjudication is resorted to. There have been only 28 cases resorted to adjudication in the whole of last year, 1944-45. Of these 19 have been disposed of and only 9 pending. To improve the adjudication machinery a decision has already been taken.

Now, Sir, Mr. Kundu has also referred to the delay in attending to matters by the Labour Department. I do not agree that the delay has been to the extent to which complaint has been made in this respect, although I do not deny that certain delay has taken place in certain cases. Now, Sir, look at the difficulty of the position. While Mr. Mukherji wants that any dispute brought before the Labour Commissioner should be immediately disposed of, Mr. Kennedy says that too quickly the matter is being disposed of and sufficient time is not being given for bringing about a conciliation. That itself shows that it is a very debatable point what time should be given and should be allowed to bring about a conciliation. Labour disputes are such delicate matter that you can never fix a time limit; nor can you allow a thing to be disposed of too quickly, nor can you allow a thing to linger on. Whenever any delay has occurred, I have been assured by the Labour Commissioner that it has been more in the interests of employees than in the interests of employers. The figures I have quoted will prove that. I am sorry that every one is very anxious to go home; otherwise, I could have spoken on this subject for hours. However, there are two or three points which I want to mention before I sit down.

Through the working of our conciliation and adjudication machinery, we have secured substantially better wages and better dearness allowance and better conditions of service. Mr. Mukherjee may deny. But we claim that through our efforts we have secured these advantages.

As far as the jute industry is concerned, the matter is already under enquiry and after the enquiry is over, an attempt will be made to standardise the wages and necessary action and negotiation will be taken by the Labour Commissioner. As far as the expansion of the Labour Department is concerned, Government have already sanctioned two Additional Labour Commissioners. One of them is a member of the Civil Service and has already joined his appointment. Another person who has been selected has had a long experience in the Labour Department. Mr. Murshedi who was Deputy Labour Commissioner is now coming to us as Additional Labour Commissioner. We have also appointed several other officers. I need not go into details.

As far as adjudication court is concerned, Government have already relieved Mr. Gupta from his post of Chief Presidency Magistrate. I think that the members know that Mr. Gupta is holding a very high rank in the judicial service and he will be put in charge of adjudication work entirely. We have also decided to give him the assistance of assessors. A panel of assessors will be created for various industries and we hope that when any dispute is referred to the adjudicator, a person will be taken from the appropriate panel.

I am sorry that the members are very anxious to go home. Therefore I must conclude. I wish I had a better opportunity to defend the Department which has been very unjustifiably attacked in spite of its very good record.

Sir, I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 7,65,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (*i*) the maladministration of the Labour Department; (*ii*) failure to ensure improved wages and better conditions of work for labourers in the Province; and (*iii*) delay in the settlement of labour disputes was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal hat the demand of Rs. 7,65,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the organisation of the Provincial Statistical Bureau was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abdul Wahed Bokainagari that the demand of Rs. 7,65,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the fixation of jute price to the prejudice of the interest of the growers and the failure of the Government to increase the minimum price to Rs. 20 at least was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin that a sum of Rs. 7,65,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 2-10 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 27th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 27th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 171 members.

Obituary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my melancholy duty to refer to the untimely death of Dr. Sir A. F. Rahman, a sitting member of the House. He died at his Jalpaiguri residence in the night of the 24th instant at the age of 56. He was elected last year from the Nilphamari Muhammadan Constituency in the vacancy caused by the death of his younger brother Mr. A. M. L. Rahman. He was a member of the old Bengal Legislative Council also.

An erudite scholar and an educationist of rare attainments he was the Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University for a term. He also served as a member of the Central Public Service Commission. A perfect gentleman he earned deep regard, love and admiration of his countrymen. Bengal has become distinctly poorer today at the loss of a noble son.

Ladies and gentlemen, I feel it is the desire of the House to send a message of condolence to the bereaved family.

I hope members will signify their assent by rising in their seats.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. The Secretary will take necessary steps.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 4-3 p.m. till 3 p.m. on Wednesday, the 28th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 28th March, 1945, at 3 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 203 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Scheduled Castes Education Fund.

*233. **Mr. MADHUSUDHAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(a) the date of the creation of the Scheduled Castes Education Fund;

(b) the amount allotted at the outset;

(c) the amount allotted each year thereafter year by year up to date;

(d) the total amount sanctioned by Government up to date;

(e) the total amount spent up to date;

(f) the total unspent balance (that is the total amount withheld from payment); and

(g) the reason why the amount sanctioned each year was not spent?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (a) 1938-39.

(b) Rs.5,00,000 (non-recurring).

(c) 1939-40—Nil.
1940-41—Nil.
1941-42—Rs.1,50,000 (non-recurring).
1942-43—Rs.1,50,000 (non-recurring).
1943-44—Rs.1,50,000 (recurring).
1944-45—Rs.5,00,000.

(d) Rs.14,39,028.

(e) Up to 1943-44—Rs.7,04,762.

(f) Up to 1943-44—Rs.2,45,238. The actual expenditure of savings of 1944-45 will be known after the expiry of the year.

(g) Savings are mainly due to the non-drawal of stipends and non-completion of various building projects due to non-availability of building materials.

Babu MADHUSUDHAN SARKER: With reference to the first part of the answer (g), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the procedure adopted by the Government for distribution of those stipends?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The money is made over to the Inspectors, who make the distribution.

Babu MADHUSUDHAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is no time fixed for inviting applications from the students of the Scheduled Castes or that there is no systematic order for distributing those stipends and, as a matter of fact, those stipends are generally distributed just after the close of the year and in the meantime many students get their names struck off from the rolls and they give up their studies?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a question. Put your question straight.

Babu MADHUSUDHAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether for that reason the students could not draw their stipends in time?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: My friend's question is that the students could not draw their stipends in time. There may be some delay. Every attempt is being made to give the stipends as early as possible.

Babu MADHUSUDHAN SARKER: My question is there is no time fixed for receiving applications from the students and there is no systematic order of distribution.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it your question that is there any time fixed for inviting applications for stipends?

Babu MADHUSUDHAN SARKER: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I do not know exactly whether, there is any time fixed. It may not be so. If my friend wants the actual information, I want notice.

Babu MADHUSUDHAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Goveernment has any fixed time or fixed month of the year for having petitions from the Scheduled Castes for those stipends?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: So far as Government is concerned, the allotted money is given to the Inspectors for distribution. It is for the Inspectors to distribute the money according to the best manner they think proper. If there is actually any difficulty and if the attention of the Government is drawn to that, I shall see that steps are taken to remove that difficulty.

Babu MADHUSUDHAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that these stipends are generally distributed just after the close of the year and in the meantime students get their names struck off from the rolls and whether it is a fact that these students give up their studies for want of funds?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: There are three parts in the question and I can answer the first.

Babu MADHUSUDHAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that these stipends are given just after the close of the year?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Before the close of the year.

Babu MADHUSUDHAN SARKER: Sometimes after the close of the year and sometimes at the end of the year.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no question. He has already answered that.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: With reference to answer (*g*) that savings are mainly due to the non-drawal of stipends, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the number of stipends is fixed or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The number of stipends is not fixed to any particular number, because the money allotted varies. This year, for example, the money allotted is much more than was allotted previously. Therefore, the number of stipends in the current year has been much larger than that in previous years.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether it is a fact, there was not a sufficient number of applicants for having stipends?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has any scheme for spending the money which has been saved on account of non-expenditure?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: For that a scheme has been submitted by the Special Officer which is still under consideration.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Does that scheme include expenditure of the entire money which has been saved?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The scheme is not just before me. I ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in respect of the money which has been saved, there was a plan for expenditure district by district?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, Sir, my friend is certainly referring to previous years. So far as the current year is concerned, the total amount allotted is Rs. 5 lakhs and I have already stated before the House on another occasion that almost the entire money is going to be spent during the current year. As regards the savings of the previous years, I have already given my answer, but whether there was money allotted district by district, I think that must have been so.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the report which has been submitted by the Special Officer has been a report on the basis of the probable expenditure district by district?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The report is not before me —I ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have given any instruction or direction to the Special Officer in the light of which he may prepare and submit his report?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The Special Officer was asked to submit his proposals and he has done that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: My question is whether the Ministry of Education has given any indication to the Special Officer asking him to prepare and submit his report in the light of that instruction.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The Special Officer is the person who gives his advice to the Government as to the manner in which money should be spent. Therefore, without giving any special instruction the Special Officer has been asked to submit his own proposals.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there were any terms and conditions on which the stipends were given?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Generally, the terms are that the recipients must be meritorious and poor students.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether there was any advertisement in the papers stating the terms on which the stipends were payable?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I have not seen any such advertisements in the papers.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of advertising in the papers, the terms on which the stipends should be given?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The information is sent by the Inspectors to all schools and therefore I do not think any advertisement through the paper is at all necessary.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the provision made for the current year is a recurring expenditure or a non-recurring expenditure?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: It is for all practical purposes a recurring charge.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Scheduled Caste Advisory Committee appointed to advise Government on the education of the Scheduled Castes submitted any scheme for approval?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has accepted that scheme?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes; almost *in toto*.

Regarding Industrial School at Nangalkut in Tippera district.

*234. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is an industrial school at Nangalkut in the district of Tippera?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the school was started;

(*ii*) whether the school premises were constructed at the expense of the Government;

(*iii*) if so, what was the amount spent for that purpose;

(*iv*) what is taught in the school;

(*v*) how many students receive the training there;

(*vi*) whether the Government grant any stipends to the students; and

(*vii*) if so, what is the amount?

(*c*) How many teachers are there in the school? Do the teachers receive their pay from the Government? If so, what is the amount each teacher receives?

(*d*) Is it a fact that one of the school premises where the students used to be trained in weaving fell down in 1941?

(*e*) Who is the Secretary of the said school?

(*f*) Is the Government aware that since the school premises fell down in 1941 up till 1944 there were no students, no teachers, and no class used to be held?

(*g*) Is it a fact that some residents of that locality made representation to the Director of Industries making allegations that after the school premises had fallen down no school has been held, yet stipends of the students, pay of the teachers and of menial staff used to be drawn by the Secretary?

(*h*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any enquiry was made as to the allegations;

(*ii*) if so, whether any report was submitted by the officer who made the enquiry;

(*iii*) if so, when; and

(*iv*) whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of laying the copy of the report on the Table?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin): (*a*), (*b*), (*vi*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) In 1939.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Yes, partly at the expense of Government. A grant-in-aid of Rs.650 was made for the purpose.

(*iv*) Weaving and dyeing.

(*v*) Twelve.

(*vii*) Rs.48 per mensem.

(*c*) Two. The other questions do not arise, this being a grant-in-aid institution.

(*e*) Khan Sahib Maulvi Md. Hasanuzzaman, M.L.A.

(*f*) No, the school continued to function.

(*g*) No, with specific reference to the allegations made. A representation against the acquisition of land for the school premises was, however, received by the Director of Industries and forwarded to the Collector of Tippera for disposal.

(*h*) Does not arise.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the grant-in-aid of Rs. 650 was an annual grant or not?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: It is a capital grant for the purpose of construction of the House.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether there is any annual grant-in-aid?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: There is a monthly grant-in-aid for that reason.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us when the house that collapsed on account of storm was reconstructed?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: It was reconstructed in January, 1942.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether any amount was sanctioned for the reconstruction of the House by the Government?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the materials of the house that was broken were used by the Secretary, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md. Hasanuzzaman?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Government have got no such information.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether any allegation of this nature was made in the representation that was made?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: No such allegation was made in the representation.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there was an enquiry made?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: There was an enquiry made recently by the Subdivisional Officer, Laksham, with reference to the acquisition of land.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: And there were allegations against the Secretary in the petition?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: There was no such allegation as has been mentioned in the question against the Secretary.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the allegations contained in the petition?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us, what was the result of the enquiry that was made by the Subdivisional Officer?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: An enquiry has been made and the report has not yet been received by the Department.

Darjeeling Seed Potato Suppliers' Association.

*235. **Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Bengal, went to Darjeeling in September, 1944, and helped the formation of "The Darjeeling Seed Potato Suppliers' Association" and selected a small number of dealers who alone will be entitled to have export-permit to bring seed potato from Darjeeling to rural Bengal?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the said Association was formed;

(*ii*) whether it is a registered body; and

(*iii*) whether it has got any common fund and common office?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the said Association has laid down rules that dealers of five years' standing alone will be entitled to become members of the Association; and

(*ii*) that the Assistant Director of Agriculture by accepting it has deprived a large number of traders of the permits to export seed potato from Darjeeling to rural Bengal?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many times the Assistant Director of Agriculture went to Darjeeling for the purpose; and

(*ii*) what is the amount he has drawn by way of travelling allowance and daily allowance?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*) and (*b*) (*i*) The Darjeeling Seed Potato Suppliers' Association was first formed in 1942 and reorganised in the beginning of September, 1944, in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling. The Assistant Director of Agriculture went to Darjeeling on the 30th August, 1944, for the purpose of supervision of the Army Vegetable Scheme and organisation of seed potato supply. Under the rules of the Association a limited number of dealers was admitted to membership of the Association.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*c*) In order to get the best value from the limited quantity of seed potatoes available in Darjeeling it was considered that only those traders who had experience of seed potato trade should be eligible for membership of the Association and 5 years' experience was prescribed as a condition of membership. It is a fact that a number of traders was thereby excluded from the export trade in seed potatoes.

(*d*) (*i*) The Assistant Director paid three visits to Darjeeling and in course of these visits he supervised the Army Vegetable Scheme in Darjeeling, lectured to the I.C.S. probationers and also helped in the organisation of the seed potato supply.

(*ii*) Rs.627.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have got any interest in the Association?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: No.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, who requested the Assistant Director of Agriculture to go and reorganize the association?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The Assistant Director of Agriculture was sent there to look after the procurement of potato seeds for Government and in the course of that duty he had to go there and he thought that the best way of doing it was to do it through the Association.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the number of the members of the Association before September, 1944?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I ask for notice.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: What is the present number of members of the Association?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I want notice.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Is it a fact that in the reorganisation of the Association most of the Bengali Hindu and Muslim members and the Pahari members of the Association were excluded?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Some have been excluded and that is why I have issued definite instructions that five years experience rule should be done away with and it should be seen that at least 75 per cent. of the members are taken from the Bengali community.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Is it a fact that still there is only one Bengali member in the Association?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I could not say that, but as I have said only recently I have issued instructions for safeguarding the interest of the Bengali traders.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether a permit system has been introduced, which requires that no one can export potato seeds from Darjeeling to any place within the Province without a permit?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: It was felt necessary to control the export of seed potatoes, as seed potatoes were going to Bihar and other places.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is it a fact that this permit system was introduced so that the agriculturists may come to Calcutta from mofussil and buy potato seeds from there?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I do not think it is so.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the people desiring permits have got to pay tips to the office of the Deputy Commissioner for the same?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I could not say that. I want notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have allowed 3,000 maunds of seed potatoes to be exported from Bengal to Bihar through Darjeeling?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: As far as I remember, we originally agreed to 50,000 maunds being exported to Bihar, but Bihar was also to send us another 50,000 maunds in exchange, but as Bihar could not supply our quota, after only about 23,000 maunds, was supplied to Bihar, we stopped further supply of potato seeds to Bihar.

Indenture of essential food commodities for Faridpur district.

***236. Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what quantities of rice, paddy, *atta*, flour, wheat, *jour*, *bazra* were indented from outside at the instance of the Government in the years 1942-43 and 1943-44 into the district of Faridpur;

(*b*) how much of each of the commodities were allotted to each of the subdivisions in each of the years;

(*c*) how much of each of the commodities were consumed by people of each of the subdivisions during each of the years; and

(*d*) what was the stock-position of the articles in each of the subdivision at the end of each financial year?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): Two statements one showing the transactions in 1942-43 and the other those in 1943-44 are laid on the Library Table.

Number of Town and Union Food and Development Committees in Dinajpur district.

*237. **Mr. SYAMAPRASAD BARMAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(a) the present number of Town and Union Food and Development Committees in the district of Dinajpur;

(b) how many of these committees have consumers stores; and

(c) how many of the Secretaries of such Food and Development Committees are—

(i) Caste Hindus,

(ii) Muslims, and

(iii) Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (a) Town Food Committees—5 and Union Food Committees—280.

(b) Consumers Stores—112.

(c) Caste Hindus—50.

Muslims—194.

Scheduled Castes—41.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the character of the consumers stores? Are these registered bodies or co-operative societies or are they like the Aiyenger Stores set up at Rangpur?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am told that these are co-operative societies. They are probably registered. I do not know what the Aiyenger Stores are to which my friend is referring.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, if he is aware that in the North Bengal districts, the District officials have been trying to organise consumers' stores, one such store being named U.S.S.R., United Service Stores of Rangpur, with membership mostly confined to well-to-do persons and not co-operative societies at all, but the supplies are limited to persons who could contribute a certain amount of money towards membership of that store?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not one question. There are so many things in it. Put one question please.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the local officials of Dinajpur and Rangpur have started the practice of setting up so-called consumers' stores, one of which is named U.S.S.R.?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The honourable member is making an effort to make the question relevant by introducing Dinajpur. I submit it is not relevant, because although something has transpired in Rangpur, nothing has taken place in Dinajpur. Any question relating to Rangpur does not arise out of this question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the consumers' stores referred to in Dinajpur are on similar lines of the consumers' stores set up at Rangpur for a limited number of contributing members who are enjoying the privileges of supplies to the exclusion of the mass of the people?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The honourable member is entirely wrong in his assumption that the consumers' stores at Rangpur are meant for the purpose of giving supplies to a limited number of

persons. I do not wish to be drawn into that controversy. The consumers' stores of Dinajpur have no resemblance to the consumers' stores in Rangpur.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question relates to number and with regard to that I have allowed you one or two questions, but please do not go into further details.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit Sir, that so far as the purpose of the question is concerned, it is with a view to find out how far different agencies are catering for public benefit and number was referred to only with a view to finding out how far these agencies were distributing properly.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have allowed one or two questions, but please do not go further into detail.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In any case if the Hon'ble Minister is so much funky about the Rangpur U.S.S.R. I shall not pursue that question. So far as Dinajpur consumers' stores are concerned, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why any multi-purpose co-operative stores were not allowed to function in the distribution of essential commodities?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: There is no objection to multi-purpose co-operative stores functioning.

(At this stage many members came and took their seats in the Opposition Benches.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the Government has lost the majority. We do not propose to continue this sham show any longer. Let the Chief Minister come to vote straightaway.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the composition of the respective population of different communities—Muslim, Scheduled Caste and Hindu, in the Dinajpur district?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is not possible for me to state the composition of the population of Dinajpur.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not necessary for you to answer.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, through mishandling of the country's affairs, bribery, corruption and jobbery Government has lost control. Let them resign.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Every single person whom you have taken is an instance of corruption.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is your own showing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Let us proceed with the business.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the matter of selection of Secretaries to the Food Committees much injustice has been done to the Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is not a case of justice or injustice. It is the local Committees that select their Secretaries. They are not imposed upon them by anybody else. Some local Committees have selected Scheduled Caste members as Secretaries who are sufficiently influential in the locality. If they are not influential, they are not selected.

(At this stage Mr. A. F. Stark was going out.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, Mr. Stark is going out to bring in European members. It is the Europeans who are keeping them on the *guddi*. Let him keep quiet.

Grievances of Haj pilgrims of Bengal.

*238. **Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal are aware that the *haj* pilgrims of Bengal were very much inconvenienced at Karachi during the last outward *haj* session?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal are considering the desirability of representing to the Government of India that the Haj Officer in the Department of Commonwealth Relations, Government of India, and the Indian Vice-Consul in His Britannic Majesty's Legation at Jeddah should by preference be suitable Bengalee officers?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): I refer the honourable member to my reply to starred question No. 194 asked by Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed on 14th March, 1945.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Upper Primary and Lower Primary Schools of Midnapore district having at least one-third of the students belonging to Scheduled Castes.

75. **Mr. KRISHNA PRASAD MANDAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of existing upper primary and lower primary schools in Midnapore district having at least one-third of the students belonging to Scheduled Castes;

(*b*) whether the said schools get any special grant (1) from Local Bodies, or (2) from Government;

(*c*) whether those schools got any special grant after last cyclone; and

(*d*) if so, (A) the amount, and (B) the name of each school which got it?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) The names of the existing upper primary and lower primary schools under private management having at least one-third of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes are indicated in the list *marked A*, laid on the Library Table.

Besides these, there are 103 schools for the education of Santals of the district under the management of the Santal Education Board with the District Magistrate as President. The names of the schools are indicated in the list marked *B*, laid on the Library Table.

(*b*) The schools under private management do not get any special grant either from local bodies or from Government.

For Santal schools the District Board pays Rs.986 and Government Rs.16,620 approximately as special grants.

(*c*) Some of the schools under private management get special grant out of the Cyclone Relief Fund.

(*d*) The names of the schools and the amount received are indicated in the list *marked C*, laid on the Library Table.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions over.

Assault on prisoners in Jail.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, there has been yet another assault in jail and this time one prisoner has been killed outright by the brutality committed on him at Dum Dum Central Jail. That incident took place on the 26th night. The prisoner was one Ibrahim Sarder, who was an undertrial prisoner. Two prisoners, one of whom is Jauli Sarder, Jail ticket No. 6019, an undertrial prisoner and Ibrahim Sarder, another undertrial prisoner, were severely assaulted for not being able to manufacture more than two cane baskets a day. These prisoners were assaulted and one prisoner died and the other prisoner is in a precarious condition in the jail hospital. Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister, to whose credit there are many such assaults in jails, please explain what is the position and if he is not in a position to reply immediately, will he find out what the facts are?

Applications for leave of absence.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do permit Messrs. L. T. Maguire and Abdur Rahman Siddiqi representing Anglo-Indian and Muslim Chamber of Commerce Constituencies, respectively, to be absent for the period from the 20th November, 1944, till the end of the present session for which they find that they are unable to attend meetings of the Assembly.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Message.

The Secretary then read the following message received from the Bengal Legislative Council:—

"That the Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on 5th March, 1945, agreed to the Albert Victor Leper Hospital (Amendment) Bill, 1944, wthout any amendments."

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

40—Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,04,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I shall not move my cut motions, but I should like to speak generally and let me do it.

Mr. SPEAKER: But there are other cut motions. Let those be moved first.

(The cut motions were called, but none were moved.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the question be now put.

Mr. SPEAKER: There has not been any discussion. Mr. Datta wanted to speak generally.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I don't think Mr. Datta will speak now.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Sir, we want to speak generally on this demand.

(At this stage there was loud noise from both the sides.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You want to save your skin.

(Cries of "Vote, vote" from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. The point really is whether I should allow any discussion on it. In fact, the motion has been moved and the practice in this House has all along been that cut motions are moved and then the general discussion follows and then the Hon'ble Minister replies. In this case the motion was moved without any speech and there is no cut motion moved by anybody. The question now is whether there can now be any general discussion on the demand. That is all the discussion that can now take place. But here really the point is whether there should be any such discussion, because on what is going to be the discussion? The Minister has not made any statement whatsoever except the statements that are already there in the publications that have been circulated in the Red Book. That is all. He has not made any statement. So, all that I can do now is that I can allow the Minister to speak and explain the position.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. From this side of the House, we made it clear that on the general motion of the Minister, we are prepared to go to vote, because Government have lost the majority and having lost the majority they have no right to demand of this House any discussion on a budget which can only be adopted by a majority of this House. We want to demonstrate that and it is only because of that cut motions were not moved and the Minister cannot be allowed to waste any more the time of the House. The Ministry has lost the confidence of the House. Let us have a straight voting. There is no question of any explanation of the Minister's policy because we have seen enough of it. We do not want to go into the merits of the Agriculture budget. We know, we shall be in a position to demonstrate a better budget from the cultivators' own point of view. This Ministry has lost confidence. We want to have that demonstrated straightaway by voting.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: On a point of order, Sir. You have stated that the Hon'ble Minister has not made a statement. The usual practice has been for the Hon'ble Minister to move his demand and not to make any statement or speech in order to give an opportunity to the persons, who have cut motions, to speak first so that in his reply, he can consolidate his original statement as also his reply to the cut motions. And in that connection, he has also to state what the Government policy is and what Government contemplate to do in the coming year and also to reply to the criticisms against the working of the department concerned. Accordingly the Hon'ble Minister has not made any statement, because he expects a general discussion to follow and after the general discussion has concluded then the Hon'ble Minister will not only outline his general policy, but also speak in reply to the speeches made. Therefore, Sir, the usual practice that has been followed, I hope, you will follow even though some of the members do not propose to move the cut motions. I submit option should be given to other members to participate in the debate and after that the Hon'ble Minister may be asked to reply.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am asking you this question in all humility. Can the Government party be allowed to waste the time of the House in this way as a dodge for securing the votes of those who are not here at the present moment? I submit, Sir, the time of the House should not be wasted in this way and the rules of business cannot be prostituted for the purpose stated by the Government.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a point of order, Sir. When the Hon'ble Minister has moved for the grant, it is a motion of the House and every member is entiled to speak on this motion under the rules. Now, Sir, though the Minister has not made any speech—this is with reference to your observations—though it is not customary, even then the Minister has not spoken on the general policy. You know, Sir, that as this party

is a disciplined body—whether they move or do not move any cut motion, they want generally to speak on the whole demand. These party members on the Government side are entitled to discuss and that discussion by the Government party members is not dependent upon the moving of the cut motions by the Opposition. That is their right and therefore if they want to speak then, Sir, I hope you will be pleased to allow them to speak and after they have spoken the Hon'ble Minister will explain his policy and may also reply to the discussion that may take place——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the Opposition has a clear majority of more than thirty votes. Will you therefore put the motion to vote now?

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Sir, it is the option of the Opposition either to move the cut motions or not to move, but we members of this House belonging to the Government party have not ceased to be members of the House and we have our cut motions and we are entitled to speak on them. It is the convention of the House that a member belonging to the Government side has been all along allowed to speak generally on the subject. As soon as a demand is moved every member has the right to speak generally on the motion that has been moved. It has been the convention during your regime and also before during the regime of Sir Azizul Haque that as soon as a demand is moved, every member, whether he belongs to the Opposition or to the Government side, has the right to speak on the subject.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On a point of order, Sir. Sir, the practice so far has been that out of the large number of cut motions that are usually tabled the Opposition are given the first opportunity to select their own motions and if in proposing those motions the time of the House that has been allotted is taken up, then the other motions are not brought before the House, but if for any reason the Opposition are not prepared to move motions for which proper notice has been given and which have been printed—and those motions are there—I think as the rules stand at present, you, Sir, have got no option, but to ask other members who have got cut motions in their name whether they are prepared to move those motions or not. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That has been done.) May I just explain my point. Sir, if the Opposition do not move their motions, the right of discussion remains, and I submit, Sir, that the only reason why so far you have not allowed other cut motions to come up was the time factor and because there was an agreement (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, no. The Government supporting party cannot move cut motions.) I submit, Sir, that there is no rule, no custom, no parliamentary practice, which prevents a member of Government from moving a cut motion.' (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: A drowning man catches at a straw.) Therefore, we have a right to move our cut motions.

I also submit that once a motion is placed before the House, members have a right to debate on the general motion of the Minister for Agriculture, and if the motion that "the question be now put" be moved, you have got to decide whether there has been reasonable discussion or not, and I submit that the members on this side of the House are as much interested in the grant that has been provided in the Budget for the department and they can give reasons why they support it. Therefore, Sir, on this ground also I submit that members on this side of the House should be allowed to speak and move their cut motions.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I am very sorry that the Hon'ble Leader of the House has misinterpreted the rules and the practice of the House. The practice has always been for the Minister in charge of a department to move his departmental demand for grant with or without speech and then come the cut motions. The cut motions are

intended to offer criticism to specific questions relating to that departmental budget. If the Opposition do not move the cut motions and if they think it proper to oppose the general demand, there is nobody who can prevent that and the Opposition are not bound under any rule whatsoever to move their cut motions.

Now, Sir, a moment ago you said that the Hon'ble Minister could now speak on his motion. There was nothing for the Hon'ble Minister to speak at any rate for the enlightenment of any section of the House, because so far as the Opposition was concerned, the Opposition had already indicated their view to oppose the general demand and so far as the Ministerialist Party were concerned, they could have his views in their party meeting and there was nothing for the Hon'ble Minister to speak for their enlightenment now in the open House. So, Sir, there is no occasion for him to speak now, when he did not choose to speak anything in moving the demand. Nor there is anything to reply to. Let the general demand go to vote and let the House vote in favour of it or vote it down.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I make one submission. I submit that your decision on this point should be based on rule 46 which lays down the procedure with regard to a closure motion. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: No closure. There was no debate.) I understand that Dr. Sanyal has moved that the question be now put. Sir, it should be interpreted under rule 46. It should not be interpreted on the basis that the Opposition should have a snap division. It should be based on rule 46 and rule 46 says in particular that a closure motion must not be an infringement of the rights of reasonable debate.

Now, Sir, a motion has been moved in this House and I submit that once that motion is moved it throws open for general debate, the whole demand for Agriculture. I would submit that it is not open to the Opposition alone, it is open to the whole House and if the Opposition do not choose to use their privilege of moving cut motions that does not mean that the rest of the House are to be debarred from taking part in the debate.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: On a point of order, Sir.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: I had cut motions under this demand. You did not call out my name. I want to move those cut motions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Israil, the Leader of the Opposition is on a point of order. It was not quite proper for you to rise in that way.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, the Minister in charge of the department has moved the demand without a speech. There has been no speech from any member so far. That shows that the House is not in a position to take the situation as if it is a debating society, because no debate is needed. As regards the Government policy, we know very well what the Government policy has been for the last two years. They stole public money, they embezzled public money, they bribed members with public money. We do not want to speak upon that. The whole list has been exhausted and we have come to the last point that the whole demand must be put, and I would submit most respectfully that you will not allow this delaying tactics and put the whole motion to the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We submit to you at the same time——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a point of order?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, obviously. We submit to you also that you should not allow rush tactics. Here we are not blind. We have seen what tactics have been resorted to in the

House. A number of members who we all know change sides frequently have been purloined and placed at the last moment from one side to the other and an attempt is being made to take a snap vote. But quite apart from the fact——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We will not allow you any opportunity to bribe the members.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Quite apart from the fact that it is the duty of the Speaker to prevent a snap division and tactics of this nature, let us consider this particular subject. It is absurd to say that merely, because a cut motion has not been moved, nobody is in a position to say anything regarding the Agriculture demand. As you know, Sir,——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Even if you are defeated the Governor may keep you and you may say that you were defeated on a snap vote and you are not prepared to resign, but the House has no confidence in you.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Even, you, Sir, are aware that the Hon'ble Minister has placed before the House certain facts and certain documents on the basis of which a discussion can be reasonably carried on. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: No, no, there is no further room for discussion.) There is nowhere any such rule that unless a cut motion is moved no discussion shall take place on the floor of the House. It is a thing which is wholly unheard of. Moreover there are certain cut motions that have been tabled by members on this side. You, Sir, have not called them out. You have only called out the cut motions that have been placed in your hands by the members of the Opposition. There is no agreement on this side that if they do not move their cut motions, we shall not move ours. (The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Whatever agreement there was, was thoroughly one-sided.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is no point of order, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: This is a very important point and I want to make it clear as to what the real position is.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Adjourn the House till Mr. Stark returns and all the European members come! (Uproar.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I will only allow the Hon'ble Minister in charge, Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain to speak for 10 minutes. (Uproar.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I have never been obstructive in the House——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On what is he speaking, Sir? (Uproar.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. It is quite clear to the meanest intellect in the House, to the reporters and everyone why this sort of thing is going on. Government is not in full strength, while the Opposition appear to be in full strength. The Opposition hope that they can give a defeat to the Government. Therefore they are anxious that this matter should be put to vote, but it is also clear, at the same time, that there cannot be any question of moving cut motions from the side of Government. (Uproar.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Why not: You have not heard me on that point.

Mr. SPEAKER: As regards procedure, the convention is firmly established that the Government side members have never been allowed to move cut motions.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Absolutely wrong. On a point order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard your point of order. It is only a delaying tactics and nothing else. Will you please sit down? This is not the proper parliamentary procedure. It is my duty to see that things are done properly. I have never seen a cut motion being moved by the Government side.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That was by agreement with the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, not by agreement. Even Mr. Stark approached me and asked me whether he would be allowed to move cut motions. Mr. Stark belongs to an independent party. He approached me for permission whether he would be allowed to move cut motions. Honourable members may take it from me that there was no question of agreement. I do not belong to the Government party, nor do I belong to the Opposition. I have got to do my duty. If Government be not careful enough to mobilise their full strength, I cannot help them. They ought to have been in full strength here in proper time. But that is no reason why I shall have recourse to a practice which is not authorised by law or rules or conventions. We began discussion of this point nearly half-an hour ago. I now ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge to speak for 10 minutes. If he does not like to speak, the only course open to me is to put the matter to vote.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Please let me speak on this point. I have stopped other members of our party from speaking. I want to raise one point of order. (Uproar.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I will give you five minutes.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Thank you, Sir. If you throw your mind back to what took place in this House, you will find, Sir, that members of the Government party have moved cut motions. I submit, Sir, with very great respect to you that members of the Government party have, when occasions arose, moved cut motions in the last seven years on several occasions. (Uproar.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, will you please sit down? I cannot allow you to dilate on a point on which I have already given my decision.

Khan Bahadur MAHAMMAD ALI: I have already told you——(Uproar.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Khan Bahadur, will you please sit down?

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: I know you, Sir. You revise your orders, you change them——(Uproar.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I ask you, Sir, to be fair and just. It does not matter whether this Ministry goes out or not. The convention that has grown up for the last few years has been based on the fact that where the Opposition say: "We are going to move cut motions" the Government party say: "We do not want to intervene and move our cut motions", because the time is short and limited. We cannot go beyond that. Today the Opposition say: "We do not want to exercise our right of moving cut motions". This does not mean that we cannot carry on a discussion in the House and you cannot say that there is any convention which forbids that. (Uproar.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Ten minutes already gone!

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister will not speak.

(The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain rose to speak.)

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Sir, I have got a specific motion in my name——

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: On a point of order, Sir,——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, you cannot stifle discussion in this manner.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a point of order, Sir....(Interruption.)... Every cut motion has got to be moved.....(Interruption).....In order to accommodate the Opposition, we had agreed that those cut motions would be taken up, but I submit, Sir, that every member has a right to move his cut motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture does not want to speak evidently. Will you please put the demand to vote?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Let me speak regarding the agricultural budget. Sir, although the cut motions are not moved, I think that there are many matters which I would like to explain to the House——

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: On a point of order, Sir. (Interruption.)

Mr. SPEAKER: There cannot be any number of points of order arising out of this.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: I think, Sir, you cannot prevent me from exercising my right.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: With regard to the famine in the province, I only want to say ..... (Interruption).....

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: This is really an unholy combination.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL-MAHMOOD: Sir, you should be fair to all..... (Interruption).....

Mr. SPEAKER: I don't want your advice.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: I have a point of order to submit, Sir.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: You are a party to these tactics.

Mr. SPEAKER: Look at the clock please.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Take that away. We do not want to be told that.....(Interruption).....

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Don't be a party to it.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: I have a valued right to make a speech. It is based on the convention of this House. You have no patience to hear me. I may tell you, Sir, I have many millions behind me.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: I have a right to make a speech. You cannot infringe on that right. All that I am asking you is to permit me to make a speech. (Interruption.)

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: You must permit me to make a speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: If all the 250 members want to speak, how is that possible?

(Interruption.)

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: On a point of order, Sir. I have a motion which you have ruled out. In this House during this session, no member of Government has spoken on the demand generally. I want to speak on that. What is your decision whether I would be allowed to speak or not?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: If other members are anxious to speak, then it is better for me to speak after they have spoken.

Mr. SPEAKER: You please go on.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: As regards the long-term policy, we are having a breeding research and dairy farm in Haringhata Thana of Nadia district, where we are going to acquire about 7,000 acres of land and where from pedigree bulls will be distributed throughout the province for improving the local breed..... (Interruption).....We have also not been unmindful of the existing cattle population. We have stopped the slaughter of all useful animals in military and civilian slaughter houses—not only cows but also heifers. We have done something definite by imposing 2 meatless days; we have saved cattle to the extent of at least one lakh annually in the city of Calcutta alone.....(Interruption).....I have already told the House the policy of the Agricultural Department in increasing the personnel of the superior staff. The cut motion is based absolutely on wrong information..... (Interruption.)

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: We have not moved any cut motions. It is not necessary to refer to them at all.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, for ensuring timely distribution of seeds we have established 113 seed stores throughout Bengal at a cost of nearly 3 lakhs of rupees from which seeds of different kinds are distributed among agriculturists in extensive scale. We intend to increase the number of these seed stores so that eventually we may have at least one in each thana and the agriculturists may get seeds near at hand. For ensuring improved seeds of guaranteed purity we have got a scheme for establishing a 200-acre multiplication farm in every district. Unless we have our own multiplication farms, we cannot be sure about the purity of the seeds. We distributed this year vegetable seedlings from the seed store in order to be sure about germination, and the scheme proved very successful. Winter vegetable seedlings were sold to the value of Rs.30,000, if not more. We grew vegetables for the military on 1,600 acres of land in order that the military might not encroach on civilian market. The military got about 57 tons of vegetables, nearly 1,200 maunds daily. We are growing summer vegetables for the civilian market under another scheme. Potato seed situation was eased to some extent by importing 40,000 maunds from Nainital and 15,000 maunds from Shillong. Madras supplied us with about 41,000 maunds of food potatoes just when we were in acute shortage.

We distributed fertilisers (Ammonium Sulphate and Phosphate) nearly 55,000 maunds at concession rates. We are importing 1½ lakh maunds of mustard cake from United Provinces to be distributed through seed stores at concession rates. We employed hundreds of *kamdars* for going round the unions and teaching manufacture of water-hyacinth composts. Three lakhs of maunds of such composts have already been manufactured. We got a Biochemist trained at Bangalore and he has been maufacturing manure out of town refuse and teaching it to municipal employees.

We are trying to increase the area under potato, wheat, pulses, oil seeds and fodder crops. For the first time in Bengal, we have got plot to plot survey of crops and have collected crop statistics after complete enumeration. We have got lists of all cultivable and uncultivable waste lands. We are now in possession of reliable materials on the basis of which not only crop planning could be made, but a plan for full utilisation of all kinds of lands can be drawn up.

We have succeeded in popularising Persian Wheel irrigation and we are definitely in favour of planned agriculture. We are trying to popularise pump irrigation also. For helping tank irrigation, we have well nigh spent 10 lakhs for re-excavation of irrigation tanks. We have spent nearly a crore on small irrigation projects and thereby brought considerable area under cultivation. We are trying to protect crops from ravages of water hyacinth by erecting barricades after having found by experiments at Arial Bil and Karunpore that barricades can effectively shut out water hyacinth from encroaching on paddy lands.

On the live-stock side, we have already got a scheme sanctioned for establishing a research and breeding farm near Calcutta for improving live-stock of the province. We have got experts who are working on this and the Poultry extension scheme. We have started the goat multiplication scheme in three districts. We have extended the Dairy at Dacca and have been doing our best to help every individual or farm who want our help for Dairy Industry. We are just starting a special cattle farm for preserving the purity of *Seri* bulls in Darjeeling. We are importing 500 milch cows every month from the Punjab.

The Animal Disease Act has been passed and it will be soon put under operation. Mass inoculation against rinderpest is just going to be introduced in three or four districts which are most liable to rinderpest epidemic and vaccinators are just being trained.

We have not been unmindful towards conservation of the existing cattle population.

We are short of staff for the various activities of the department and for solving the problem, we have sanctioned extension of the Veterinary College. We have provided for training of 200 demonstrators annually, in place of only 30 or 40, we are allowing 60 stipends in the Veterinary College and 100 in the Demonstrators' School, all of the value of Rs. 25 per month. The scheme for extension of Agricultural College at Dacca is before us already and we are providing for double the present number of students. We have already sent three young men abroad for higher agricultural education and have decided to send 16 more this year. We had practically no mechologist in Bengal, but we have been able to secure the services of the best mechologist in India, Dr. Padwick, who has been placed in charge of our Research section in addition to his duties as Principal of the Dacca Agricultural College. Our Research section is being expanded to meet the requirement of an agricultural province like Bengal.

We have brought 1,023 acres of Railway side lands already under cultivation. The statistics collected by complete enumeration method shows that since the District Settlement operations the area under Aman

has increased by 15 lakh acres. Half of this increased cultivation was perhaps due to pressure of population on land, but the other half can be safely claimed as the direct result of "Grow More Food" campaign.

We have under contemplation big schemes of reclamation of waste lands, seed multiplication farms in every thana, Research farm of 1,000 acres each in every Division, Sugar Research farms, Tobacco Research farms. We are determined to increase the area under cotton cultivation according to a definite programme. We are determined to revive the lac cultivation which is now in a moribund condition.

We are going to experiment on joint farming and also on mechanised agriculture, and have ordered for 50 tractors from America. We have secured the services of an eminent Horticulturist in order to develop Horticultural wealth of the province. We have secured the services of a potato specialist as we have decided to increase the area under disease-free potato which gives 10 times more yield per acre than rice. If we are to meet the food requirement of our ever-growing population, we must grow potato extensively.

We are seriously considering the Agricultural Credit and Finance problems and are having examined the Egyptian Grain Bank scheme for finding out if it would suit Bengal condition. Our Marketing Department has done useful works in connection with Darjeeling vegetables, Madras potatoes and United Provinces ghee. But the department will have to be expanded enormously as soon as the Market Regulation Bill which is now being revised is passed into law. The Development Department has been of immense help in collecting Agricultural statistics and doing spade work for small irrigation projects and waste land reclamation schemes. They have also procured paddy seeds to the extent of 1 lakh 42 thousand maunds of best local variety in addition to similar quality secured by the Director of Agriculture of improved variety.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He has taken more than 20 minutes. When will you put it to vote?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will put it to vote at 4-30.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: For securing remunerative prices to the agriculturists, we have decided to employ an Economic Adviser, who could enquire into the cost of production of agricultural produce from time to time and report as to what should be the economic price of different crops.

I have put, in a nutshell, what we have so far done and what we propose to do in the near future. The honourable members will realise that the development of agriculture of a country like Bengal, which was so badly neglected so long, is not an easy task and it cannot be achieved in one or two years. We have the satisfaction, however, that the foundation for agricultural regeneration has been firmly laid. We are attacking the problem simultaneously from all points and have not overlooked anything which has bearing on the problem of all-round development of agriculture. We are not grudging expenditure under the head of agriculture which has risen to 2·4 crores from only about 50 lakhs two years ago. We are carrying on an organised and methodical campaign for substantially increasing the agricultural output of our province. Our labours have already borne fruit in respect of vegetables and we are confident, if the programme chalked out by us is pursued with courage and determination, through God's grace, Bengal will be able to effect all-round development in agriculture to such an extent that her agricultural output will not only be sufficient to meet her requirements, but she will be exporting largely to other provinces and countries and thereby increasing the wealth and making her people as happy and prosperous as once they were.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The question be now put.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will put the matter to vote at 4-30.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Why, we will have our cut motions.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Why, Sir? Do you call it a discussion that a member shall speak for 8 minutes?

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Sir, there has been a challenge from Dr. Sanyal and I shall reply to that first. The challenge was that Opposition have now formed a majority and that Government are in a minority for that. Why has it been done? Because only yesterday and day before yesterday the Marwari shops have been raided, the Marwaris have been hauled up and Marwari shops have been put under lock and key and their cloths seized. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, is this Agriculture budget?)

With regard to the budget itself before us, I must tell you that the Hon'ble Minister's speech has alreaudy revealed, what the present Government have done. If my friends on the other side have no imagination to go through the budget and have no imagination to study the implications of this budget, we cannot help it——(Interruptions and noise)—— Sir, there has been progress which is beyond the comprehension of any gentleman in the opposite; there has been expansion of agriculture and the Agriculture Department which is an eye-sore to our friends of the opposite—they do not like agricultural improvement and they are the enemies of the agriculturists, for that.——the nefarious acts of the gentlemen now arrayed against us have shown how they are going to sell away the country's interest for the benefit of the Marwaries.——Everybody must understand what the position is. This Ministry has done a good deal for everything from agricultural education to agricultural operation and it has under contemplation much more than anybody in the Opposition can even conceive of. This is the situation. ——Now, today at least the Government has done and will be doing something for the amelioration of the agriculturists and for the improvement of their condition. We know how this Ministry is genuinely sympathetic towards the agricultural population, how they have provided for education on agriculture and how they have provided facilities for the improvement of cattle and supply of fodder manure and seeds. They have provided for irrigation—dug innumerable tanks, re-excavated innumerable rivers and channels and created innumberable bunds as "Grow More Food" campaigns. They have removed jungles and brought the lands under cultivation. They have spaded up fallow lands. Fish culture has not escaped their attention. Extensive farming in agriculture as training ground has been taken up on scientific basis. All these things have surely been done not through the efforts of the friends of the Opposition. Sir, I draw your attention that what our friends of the Opposition have been doing they are doing at the instance of the Marwaris of Burrabazar. They are within the clutches of the Marwari gentlemen. This is not for the country's benefit, but it is for the country's injury. The country is being sold to the Marwaris themselves. This sort of act should never be tolerated.

Sir, I am giving an information through the Legislature and through the press that the Marwaris have bought possibly the gentlemen who have gone over and formed a majority today merely by one day's operation and the purse of the Marwaris is responsible for this. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not the blood of the agriculturists.) By one or two days' efforts all the hidden things have been found out and lakhs and lakhs of rupees worth of cloth and lakhs and lakhs of rupees worth of yarn have been caught in the godowns and streets of Calcutta. That is why it is that the Marwari gentlemen sitting over there and also their friends, their servants and employees including possibly some Doctors and some high

educationists have taken up this attitude. This, Sir, makes me think on behalf of the poor village folk "What is the future of Bengal? Where will the agriculturists stand?"

Sir, in the beginning, we were possibly proud of Mr. Fazlul Huq, but now our affection for him has ceased. Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee and Mr. Fazlul Huq are sitting side by side—you can see, anybody can see. This is a scene.——Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee is at the root and he has made the suggestion that Muslims should be driven out of Bengal. That is his ideology. Sir, this is very unfortunate, this is very miserable.

Sir, for the benefit of the village folk, for the benefit of the agriculturists, something is being attempted and will be attempted. Dr. Syamaprasad cannot tolerate it for here the Muslims are in majority to reap the benefit. They will talk in the name of education and in the name of university. There again they will shut the door against us. Mookerjees and Banerjees are there are monopolists.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Sir, I want to speak

Mr. SPEAKER: I can't allow you to speak.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir,——

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot look to this side or that side. I must act according to the rules. I shall now put the motion to vote. (Uproar.)

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain that a sum of Rs.2,04,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" was then put in the midst of continuous uproar and a division taken.

(While the division bell was ringing.)

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: On a point of order, Sir,——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. There cannot be any point of order at this stage.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, you have behaved in a manner——(Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Shut up.) (Uproar.) The Ministry may be defeated today, but we shall go out with our heads high in the air, because we have tried to down the profiteers and black-marketeers; and with the money of profiteers and black-marketeers those who have acquired a majority today may come in our places. We shall go out with our heads high and our flags flying and let those who stand in support of hoarders and profiteers today come and step in ——(Uproar.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: This voting is a vote of censure on Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We are not sorry, that a number of ragamuffins and rascallions have joined your ranks. (Uproar.) It is a [illegible] for any party to have them as its members and supporters. (Uproar.)

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Sir, I have got a specific motion in my name. Will you allow me to move it or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If this cloth drive had not taken place, this thing would not have occurred. It is a snap division. One member only speaks for 6 or 7 minutes. You call that a debate? You call that a discussion?

AYES—97.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mir. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Ma[illegible]).
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Halim Molla, Khan Sahib Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.

Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Metaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrah).
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah (Rangpur).
Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Kazi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Barma, the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Farhut Bano Khanam, Begum.
Faziul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Khan Bahadur (Mymensingh).
Ferguson, Mr. F. F. M.
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Leisk, Mr. John.
McIntosh, Mr. George, C.B.E.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, Rai Sahib Jagat Chandra.
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Methold, Mr. J. H.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Taraknath, M.B.E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Nooruddin, Mr. K.
Norton, Mr. H. R., M.B.E.
Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Thorman, Mr. C. M.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C.B.E.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.

NOES—106.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr. (Khulna).
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Wahed Bokainagari, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badi Ahmed Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Haji.
Badrudduja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Mr. Pangajit.
Barman, Mr. Upendra Nath.
Basu, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das, Babu Manmatha Nath.
Das, Rai Sahib Monmohan.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Edber, Mr. Upendranath.
Faziul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Ghosuddin Ahmed, Mr.

Gazzam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi.
Gazzam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Ghosh, Mr. C.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khaitan, Mr. Debi Prosad.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. (Bogra).
Mahtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur Uday Chand, of Burdwan.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Al-Hadj Maulvi.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherjee, Mr. B.
Mukherji, Dr. H. C.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra, of Dessimbazar.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Paul, Sir Hari Sanker.
Poddar, Mr. Anandilal.
Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Roy, Shib Shekhareswar, Kumar.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Shamsul Huda, Maulana.
Singha, Maharaja Bhupendra Chandra, of Susang.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Wallur Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.
Zillur Rahman Shah Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 97 and the Noes 106, the motion was lost.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: In obedience to the majority verdict of the House, we call upon the Ministers to resign.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: According to the statement of the Speaker, this is a snap division and we do treat it as such. Besides, we consider that against all rules and regulations and parliamentary practice all over the world, this side of the House has been denied the right to move cut motions and to speak. Under the circumstances today I do not propose to move any further demand for grant. I would ask you to adjourn the House.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 4-45 p.m., till 4 p.m., on Thursday, the 29th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 29th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 212 members.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions.

(Starred question No. 239 was called.)

Point of Order.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I rise on a point of order? My point of order is specific. It relates to the effect of the adverse vote which the Assembly passed upon the Ministry yesterday. Sir, my submission to you is that when a Ministry does not enjoy the confidence of the Assembly (VOICES FROM THE COALITION BENCHES: Question!) that Ministry should resign. Sir, my friends question. The question was decided by a vote yesternight.....(A VOICE: By a snap vote.) I am coming to the question of snap vote in a moment. Sir, I have not been able to discover one single precedent in the legislatures of India or elsewhere where the Ministry has stuck to office after being beaten on the floor of the Assembly on a demand for grant involving crores of rupees. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first part of the item of business of today is "Questions and Answers." The question is being put to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge and the answer is to be given by him or on his behalf. My respectful submission to you, Sir, is that the Ministry has ceased to function since yesterday. The resignation of a Ministry in any parliamentary form of Government is enforced only by conventions. The courts have no discretion or jurisdiction in the matter and, Sir, the Nazimuddin Ministry, according to my humble submission, has ceased to function since last night. Sir Nazimuddin yesterday stated definitely and categorically and his voice is being echoed by his followers today that yesterday's vote was a snap vote. I shall ask Sir Nazimuddin in all humility to acquire a precise notion of the expression "snap vote". I have yet to learn from the practice of legislatures in India and the practice of the British House of Commons that a vote with a decent margin on a major demand of the budget is or could be a snap vote.

Sir, I shall first of all deal with the questions of fact and then I shall discuss the questions of law. The first question of fact is this: was yesterday's vote a snap vote at all? It was perfectly well known to the Chief Minister, his twelve other Ministers and his seventeen Parliamentary Secretaries that the Opposition was bound to have a trial of strength with the Ministry in power. That fact could not possibly have been unknown certainly to the numerous Parliamentary Secretaries and Whips surrounding the Ministry all paid out of the public revenues. Sir, yesterday in the press definite hints and suggestions were given about the trial of strength. The House was scheduled to sit at 3 o'clock and I betray no secret when I say that the Opposition was sorry for the inevitable loss of one day in the Budget session due to the unfortunate and untimely death of one of the members of this House. Sir, so far as I am aware the Government insisted on sitting at 3 o'clock and if the followers of Government were not present then the responsibility surely does not rest on the Opposition. It is perfectly well known to all of us that the effective

strength of the House yesterday was less than 230, and in a House of 230, 203 on either side voted and if this vote is regarded as a snap vote, I do not know how to explain or comprehend the definition of snap vote.

Mr. Speaker, I have something more to add. My honourable friends of the European group headed by their leader were not present at 3 o'clock. The discussions—I will not say, the unparliamentary discussions and the demonstrations—lasted for about an hour and then my honourable friends slowly, gradually and surely streamed in. Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only that but the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the budget for the day delivered his speech, if I am not very mistaken, for the statutory period of thirty minutes and more. Sir, under the rules nobody was entitled to speak after the speech of the Hon'ble Minister and yet by a latitude which was perhaps unusual, which was perhaps ethical but not legal the Chair allowed a speech from one of the followers of Sir Nazimuddin. Whether the speech of that follower was relevant or irrelevant is a question for the Chair to decide but it was neither intelligible nor audible to any one of us——

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Nor intelligent.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I do not say, "nor intelligent"; all members of the House are supposed to possess sufficient intelligence.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: In equal degree.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Perhaps. Mr. Speaker, Sir, then I raise the question of law. The demand was rejected *in toto*. The matter came up for the decision of the Chair on a previous occasion. The demand, I say again, Sir, was rejected *in toto*. Now a demand comes out of a budget which, to use the expressive language of the Chair on a previous occasion, is an indivisible document and no finance budget is completed unless there is an ~~authenticated schedule~~ sent by the Governor. Sir, the statute is specific. May I first of all refer you to section 79, sub-section (3), of the Government of India Act? Section 79, sub-section (3) of the Government of India Act is, "No demand for a grant shall be made except on the recommendation of the Governor". Sir, here the Ministry functioning for the purpose of aiding and advising the Governor under the statute presents the budget on behalf of the representative of the Crown in this province, viz., the Governor.

Then, Sir, may I refer you to sections 78 and 79 of the Government of India Act. Section 78 deals with the annual financial statement. I draw your specific attention, Sir, to the expression "annual financial statement" and the annual financial statement consists of two parts, viz., part (2) (*a*) and part (2) (*b*), namely, expenditure described as expenditure charged upon the revenues of the province and the sums required to meet other expenditure proposed to be made from the revenues of the province. Sir, sub-section (3) deals with expenditure charged on the revenues of each province. Then the relevant sections are section 79(2) and section 80 proviso. Let me, Sir, place sub-section (2) of section 79 before you for a moment: So much of the said estimates as relates to other expenditure shall be submitted, in the form of demands for grants, to the Legislative Assembly, and the Legislative Assembly shall have power to assent, or to refuse to assent, to any demand, or to assent to a demand subject to a reduction of the amount specified therein. Therefore, sub-section (2) visualises three things, the Legislature has the right to refuse the demand *in toto*, secondly, the Legislature has the right to reduce the demand, and, thirdly, the Legislature has the right to assent to the demand. In this instance the Legislature refused the demand altogether. Therefore, what follows? Under section 80, proviso, the position is this: Provided that, if the Assembly have refused to assent to any demand for a grant or have assented to such a demand subject to a reduction of the amount specified therein—here the first eventuality has happened—the Governor may if in his opinion

the refusal or reduction would affect the due discharge of any of his special responsibilities, include in the schedule such additional amount, if any, not exceeding the amount of the rejected demand or the reduction, as the case may be, as appears to him necessary in order to enable him to discharge that responsibility.

Therefore, Sir, since the demand has been rejected *in toto*, under the Act the Governor of the province has only one power, viz., to restore that portion of the grant which affects his special responsibilities and special responsibilities, Mr. Speaker, have been expressly defined under section 52 of the Government of India Act.

Sir, the demand yesterday was for the small sum of Rs. 2,04,00,000. The amount charged upon the revenues of the province, shown separately on page 70 of the Red Book, was only Rs. 89,000. Therefore, Sir, whatever demands may be made upon the Legislature for the special responsibilities of the Governor of the province, by no stretch of imagination could the sum of Rs. 2,04,00,000 be reached. So, Sir, legally and constitutionally the position is this. Since the Governor of a province under the Government of India Act, 935, has no power of certification, therefore this part of the demand absolutely goes this session so far as the Legislature is concerned, specially in view of the provisions of rule 39 of the Assembly Procedure Rules.

Sir, something more. If this part of the budget goes, then how is it possible for the Governor to authenticate a schedule,—the language used in the statute again is "a schedule'". Sir, section 80(2) refers to the schedule. The schedule so authenticated shall be laid before the Assembly but shall not be open to discussion or vote in the Legislature. Sub-section (3) is still more important: Subject to the provisions of the next succeeding section, no expenditure from the revenues of the province shall be deemed to be duly authorised unless it is specified in the schedule so authenticated.

So, Sir, the position is this that the Ministry which was in power yesterday and which suffered defeat at the hands of the legislators yesterday could not get the entire budget through the Assembly under the provisions of the Government of India Act and, therefore, Sir, it was their bounden duty yesterday to tender their resignation. Resignation, as I said, Sir, cannot be forced upon the Ministry by the tribunals of the land, but in a matter like this from the point of view of the privileges of the House and from the point of view of constitutional propriety and constitutional development in this province, it is incumbent, Mr. Speaker, that there should be a decision from the Chair as to whether or not a Ministry is bound to resign when it suffers a defeat at the hands of the Legislative Assembly.

Sir, Sir Nazimuddin took shelter under a convenient expression "snap vote". I am not accustomed to throw challenges to him. I ask him again, in all humility if he and his colleagues, aided and advised by competent constitutional legal advisers inside this House and outside, have discovered one single precedent where a budget demand is thrown out by the House of Commons or by a Legislative Assembly and yet the Ministers stick to their chairs like glue. Sir, this is an act of utmost constitutional impropriety.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday something more happened. The powers of this Legislature are strictly circumscribed and today the guillotine will fall, I am told, at exactly half-past six. Sir, yesterday the Legislature was called upon to discuss three demands and by no stretch of imagination and by no possible mathematical calculation could more time be allotted to the Ministry for the demand on "Agriculture" beyond 4-30 p.m. Sir, it is absurd to suggest that the two other items should have no treatment whatever from the House. Sir Nazimuddin is alleged to have stated, my friend reminds me, that the voting was to have taken place at 7 p.m.—under what head probably did not enter his head. On the demand on

"Agriculture" there could not be a voting beyond half-past four because if the House sat at 3 and if the questions went on for half-an-hour, then after all with the intervals for two prayers three hours were only available to you, Sir, and the House and within these three hours three demands had to be discussed, disposed of and voted upon.

Sir Nazimuddin did something tangible. He made an admission which was in the nature of a confession of the defeat of the Ministry by requesting you to adjourn the House in regard to other demands. Either Sir Nazimuddin was very strong—either he was in a majority or he was not. If he was strong in a majority, he should have seen to the disposal of the two items of demand apart from "Agriculture". Sir, that was not the view which he took and his attitude was perfectly consistent with the view that he had ceased to have the confidence of the majority of the Legislature. He must then logically regard yesterday's vote not merely a snap vote but yesterday must be a "snap day" for him and his Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are my submissions and I invite your ruling on these points. This is a subject of utmost constitutional importance. To-day's strength does not decide the issue, although we have mobilised our strength and are in a majority even to-day. Circumscribed as we are in regard to provisions of the Government of India Act, the Oppositon has very limited means at its disposal for censuring a Ministry in power. The Ministry in power can be censured in England, as you know, in diverse ways. Many of those methods are not open to us, but a vote of no-confidence is not the only method whereby the *bona fides* of the strength of the Ministry in power can be tested, and one of the primordial methods known to parliamentary institutions is to effect a trial of strength upon the Budget. This is done in diverse ways. In this Province, Sir, we usually take recourse to two steps—one by way of cut motions and the other by way of an opposition to the total demand. Sir, we have seen Ministries here in India functioning notwithstanding the fact that cut motions have been disposed of by the respective Houses of Legislature against them. In England, if I remember rightly, Ministries resign on even snap votes with regard to cut motions. As I said, I have not come across one single precedent where a Ministry in England has not resigned on a major demand being thrown out by the Opposition. And, Sir, may I add in all seriousness that such a precedent does not exist even in this unfortunate land of ours—India? My honourable friends by sticking to their seats will create a precedent and hand down to generations yet unborn the glorious spectacle of a Ministry sticking to power without having a majority. The point, Sir, is of vast constitutional importance, and I should even on a speech on a constitutional point of law make two appeals. I am not accustomed to make such appeals. I am accustomed to stand on my rights. I must address my appeal to Sir Nazimuddin and his followers to follow the usual and the universal constitutional practice in all parliamentary institutions all over the world. And, Sir if that is not possible, I invite you, as the custodian of the rights and liberties of this House, and as the Great Commoner of the realm to stand fast to constitutional progress and constitutional development. Sir, I have finished. (Applause.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I have very little to add to what I said yesterday. I find that on the 26th March, 1938, the then Speaker gave a ruling in which he clearly laid down that the members of the Government Party have a right to move cut motions and it is only by agreement that they may not avail of this right——

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, I would like to have an occasion of replying to Sir Nazimuddin.

May I just interrupt him at this stage? Will he refer to the ruling given by your predecessor, Sir Azizul Haque, with reference to cut motions brought forward by the Government Party?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: My reference is to a ruling given by Sir Azizul Haque and I am giving the date which can be looked up, viz., 26th March, 1938, and there it has been clearly laid down that the members belonging to the Government Party have as much right as anybody else to move cut motions, and they can after moving withdraw them with the permission of the House, for the purpose of bringing to the notice of Government and the House a particular point of view on which they feel fairly strongly. Until that ruling is revised by another ruling, I maintain that that ruling holds the ground, and, as such, our members were deprived of moving their cut motions to which I consider they had an inherent right recognised by all the legislatures in the world. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Question, Question.) (Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Inherent right to stick to office!) And the rules and regulations of this House make it clear that if proper notice has been given for any cut motion and if time is there, members should be asked to move that cut motion. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: You have your party meeting.) Therefore, we feel that yesterday not only our members were deprived of moving their cut motions, but what, in our opinion, is more important, is that the main motion was not allowed to be discussed by the members of this House and last of all when I, as Leader of the House, wanted to wind up the debate, that was also not allowed. If the honourable members on the other side claim that they have got a majority, well, the result of the vote today will show, and I can assure this House, that if voting goes against us, we shall resign.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: You will have no other alternative but to resign.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As regards the point that has been raised about the rejection of the total grant, that question is entirely a constitutional one, and it depends on how the other grants are dealt with today.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not have liked to add to the elaborate explanation on this point of order by my esteemed friend and teacher, Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee, but the side-tracking of the real issue sought by the Leader of the House compels me to invite your attention to the main problems for which your ruling is really sought.

The first issue is whether the Ministry of Bengal, as now constituted, can carry on, as the Leader of the House is reported to have said to the press, so far as the business of this Legislature is concerned. We submit, that they have no right any more to carry on the business of this Legislature. Whether they will be propped up and kept alive by a willing and obliging Executive Head of the province or not is a different matter, but so far as you are concerned, as custodian of the rights and privileges of this House, our submission to you is that this Ministry cannot continue to function, so far as this House is concerned; and why is it so?

Our first ground is that the Ministry after a definite trial of strength has been found to have no majority behind them. And how is this definite trial of strength proved? Yesterday morning in many of the newspapers of Calcutta it was definitely announced—I am quoting from the *Hindusthan Standard* on the first front page of it—in bold headlines was this report "Trial of strength between the Opposition and the Government likely", "Tense atmosphere in Bengal Assembly", "Usual lobby activities", "The stage is being rapidly set for a trial of strength between Government and the Opposition in the current session of the Bengal Legislative Assembly."

The newspaper also reported—"Whether the Opposition move will take the form of a direct vote of No-confidence or will take the shape of an effort to reject one of the remaining budget demands is not yet known": so that even the method of that test of strength was indicated in the newspapers.

It is further to note, Sir, that on the previous day after the House had been adjourned on account of the sad demise of a member the fact that many Ministers and whips had been moving about in the lobbies anxiously trying to seek assistance from all quarters was also mentioned and reported in the paper. The report runs thus: "What the final outcome of the present move might be it is difficult to say at the present stage. The Opposition members say that they will not launch the assault unless they find that the prospects of their success are bright and many Opposition members claim that the outlook is encouraging. On the other hand the Government whips appear to be confident about the strength and position of the Ministry"; thus the Government and the Opposition had been openly and definitely trying their strength for the last few days, and yesterday's event was not an isolated incident which could be said to have taken the Ministry by surprise. Previous to that definite charges have been made against the administration, particularly drawing pointed attention to various aspects of maladministration including bribery, corruption, nepotism and the like. As a result of a series of charges to which the Ministry made a poor effort to reply they had definitely been losing confidence of the House and this culminated ultimately in a determination of a section of those who were continuing their support to leave the Ministerial party as untouchable and to come over to this side.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARY: It is a good political speech.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is also well-known——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Good politics indeed. I give you credit for that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: So that yesterday's incident could not by any stretch of imagination be considered as a snap vote or surprise vote. (Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: But certainly a bribed vote.)

Sir, a statement made by you was sought to be mutilated and utilised to their own advantage by the Leader of the House. What did you say, Sir? You merely said, pointing to the Leader of the House "The Opposition has mustered strength and you evidently feel that so far as your following is concerned they have not come in sufficient number." That does not mean that you declared that it was a snap vote and yet an attempt was made to put those words into your mouth to indicate that you had in some way or other consciously or unconsciously accepted the position that yesterday's voting was a snap voting. However, that may be, whatever may be the position, snap vote or no vote, the fact remains that one of the major grants has been refused and under no stretch of imagination the Government of India Act could be so construed or interpreted as to empower any authority to restore that grant and to permit the functioning of the Ministry. If that grant cannot be restored an important department of Government goes out of the picture and no Ministry can possibly claim to function in Bengal without the Department of Agriculture functioning. Therefore, it is obvious to the meanest intelligence that the present Ministry cannot function so far as the business in the House is concerned. Mr. Banerjee has further made it clear that one portion of the budget which has to be presented in the form of one complete whole of estimates of expenditure having been turned down it is not possible any longer for even the Governor of the province to authenticate the whole schedule of expenditure and even if an attempt is made to continue work today the Governor will have ultimately to keep out the major demand on Agriculture out of his authenticated budget and consequently the province will have to go without the Agriculture Department. This is a situation which cannot be contemplated and consequently our submission is that the refusal of a major grant automatically and *ipso facto* turns down the entire budget of the province, and if the entire budget of the province goes out of the picture obviously no Ministry can function. I, therefore, submit that the real issue is whether

the present Ministry can continue to function, so far as this Legislature is concerned and if they cannot continue to function the rest of the business of the day cannot be proceeded with.

With regard to the new issue sought to be raised regarding the previous Speaker's alleged ruling the position has been made hundred times clear. I submit that in spite of searches by all and sundry the Leader of the House has not been able to find out during a long period of seven years any precedent in which an attempt had been made by any member of the Government Party to move a cut motion. So he had to take recourse to a ruling or statement given by the Speaker in the House on the 26th March, 1938. Sir, we remember the circumstances when this ruling was given. Certain members of the Government Party then wanted to speak on certain definite motions. It was pointed out by the Opposition that a cut motion definitely raised specific issues of criticism of the action of the Government, and if Government action was to be criticised by the members of the Government Party they had other opportunities and occasions to do so. Even on the floor of the House they could generally speak, but the position being delicate in regard to the forcing of that issue to vote it was pressed by the other side that they might withdraw, but once a motion was left as a property of the House, the withdrawal also would involve voting of the House and therefore certain difficulties did arise. Thereafter, after having examined the question carefully your predecessor, Sir, actually gave a definite direction that in future no member of the Government Party would be permitted to move cut motions but they would be permitted to reply to any points raised by the Opposition. But, Sir, so far as yesterday was concerned there was no question of reply because no criticism was made. The claim that Government party members were deprived of their opportunity of moving cut motions is absolutely without any precedent and need not be taken serious note of. The claim that the Leader of the House was not allowed to wind up the debate is a new and absolutely astounding claim. So far as we remember there was no attempt made by the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin even yesterday to seek your permission to wind up the debate after the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture had made his statement and after you had allowed through your grace another member to speak thereon. There was no question of winding up of the debate at all because there was no debate. There was only one-sided statement. Therefore the claim that Sir Nazimuddin's privilege was interfered with absolutely falls to the ground.

Further, Sir, if the time factor is examined, you will notice that we began at 3 o'clock and there were three major demands to be examined yesterday. You allowed 20 minutes for questions; about 10 minutes we took in the Hon'ble Minister moving the major demand and certain other preliminary things; the Secretary read out certain messages. From 3-30 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. there were various kinds of discussions including points of order. And it was after 4-30 p.m. that you actually allowed one member from that side and the Minister to make their statements. Although you first said that the Minister would be given 10 minutes' time you actually allowed him enough time to read out a written speech completely and you did not try to stop him until he himself voluntarily came to the conclusion, and no unfairness on your part could in the least be suggested by any member the Government Party. On the contrary, we on this side were feeling unhappy, to say frankly, that time was allowed to enable the Government Whips and the European Party Whips to get their members to be present as much as possible, and in the circumstances no injustice or unfairness, at any rate to the Government Party, could in any way be suggested. Further, Sir, even assuming that there was some quick voting yesterday, even then the claim that Sir Nazimuddin made of the number of members that were likely to come shows that even taking those members into account he would not have come near the majority. Therefore he could not have substantially lost anything through the voting because the

voting was clear, the majority was absolute and without the slightest doubt it was free and fair voting. In the circumstances I submit, Sir, that there could be no difficulty in your way in ruling that the Ministry has ceased to function.

There is yet one other point which Mr. Banerjee did not make out, and that is the most interesting of all the points. The Leader of the House himself did not pursue the debate on the other Grants that were following yesterday. If he really felt that for quick snap voting one major demand was thrown out, he could have demonstrated yesterday by proceeding with the debate straight on for next grant on Veterinary or the subsequent grant on Famine and he could, if he had the majority as he claims, actually demonstrate that yesterday by a prolonged debate later on. But he knew that he had lost the confidence of the House: he dared not continue the debate and he only wanted an opportunity to get an adjournment to have nocturnal activities to be indulged in later on. That is a matter which we are extremely anxious about. We were prepared for any number of votings yeterday. The Government, as you noticed, not only was not prepared to face the voting but were trying to disturb you and even one of the Ministers went so far to forget himself as to rush at you—at the Chair, and pulled the microphone and was trying to utilise the rod of the microphone—might be against you or against us. This Mina Peshwari method was stopped by your timely intervention.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Dr. Sanyal, do not bring in irrelevant matters when talking on a point of order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANAYL: I therefore submit, Sir, that the Leader of the House was conscious of the weakness and there could be no question whatever of the Ministry functioning today. There is a notice sent to us—a minor point—stating that the business of yesterday will continue today. In regard to that I have to make one small submission. I submit that according to the Governor's Rules regarding the Budget Debate, rule 15 of the Governor's Rules, the voting on demands has to be done on specific demands and days are allotted with the proviso that not more than two days can be taken up for any one demand. In regard to that provision we had yesterday the days allotted for Agriculture, for Veterinary and for Famine, and when the Government refused to move their motions, automatically they lost the chance to move these grants altogether. They could not revise that at all. So far as the Agriculture Demand is concerned, although some obliging newspapers try to suggest that the Chief Minister or the Home Minister will bring up this Agriculture Demand over again, it is absolutely contrary to the provisions of law. Yet, Sir, there is a possibility, as I find from today's notice served on us which was posted by your office some time yesterday, that an attempt is being made to take up the unfiinished business of yesterday. I submit that there was no unfinished business. So far as the latter two demands are concerned, Veterinary and Famine, the question was that you called upon the Ministers but they refused to move and the question rested there. There was no question of compulsion. I know, Sir, that rule 22 of the Assembly Procedure Rules states that "all business appointed for any day and not disposed of on that day shall stand over until the next day of the session available for business of the class to which it belongs." So far as the class of business appointed for any day is concerned, here the appointment of a date is governed by rule 16 of the Governor's Rules and specifically the days were appointed according to that rule. No provision is made for permitting extension of the date or time. Secondly it only covers such business as having been admitted could not be disposed of. If when called upon by the Speaker some Minister does not move the business, it goes out of the picture altogether. You could not term that as business not disposed of. The business could be taken up and disposed of but the Minister did not for obvious reasons like to move the relevant motion.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was not called upon.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Of course, he was. And, Sir, that could not be taken advantage of to mention that it was a business not disposed of. The business was really disposed of not in the manner suggested by the Government but in the other way: it went out of the agenda altogether. Therefore these two demands, Veterinary and Famine Demands, cannot be taken up at all during this session. Even if a short notice is accepted by you, which also, so far as we are concerned, has put us to great inconvenience, I submit this demand cannot come up. In view of this, Sir, I feel that the only correct procedure in the circumstances would be for you to declare that so far as the House is concerned the Ministry cannot function any more, and thereafter what will happen must be left to the Ministers themselves because they ought to know that rights and liberties are fought for and created and not secured by clinging blindly to office.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: A question has been raised that yesterday's voting was not a snap division. This is a question of fact and I shall place before you and the House facts which will show that yesterday's division was a snap division. The reasons are these. Two unusual things happened yesterday. Firstly, for the first time during budget session we met at 3 o'clock. (Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Three o'clock was fixed by you.) By Government. A circular was issued to the members informing them that the business not taken up on the previous day would be taken up on the next day, but in that circular no time was mentioned and many of our members were not aware of the fact that the meeting would take place at 3 o'clock. Then another unusual thing is this. For the first time during the budget session a division was taken at about 4-30.

I will tell you the other fact. If the division had taken place 15 minutes later, nine members of our party and one member of the European party would have been present. They arrived at the Assembly within 10 minutes of the division and I place their names. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Solaiman, Prince Yusuf Mirza, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Mr. Gomes, Mr. Amrita Lal Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari Mandal (Parliamentary Secretary), Miss P. B. Bell-Hart and Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan—these 9 members of our party including one more of the European party arrived within 10 minutes of the division, and Mr. Abdul Jabbar Palwan. That shows that if a division had taken place 10 minutes later (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Why did you run away?) we would not have been defeated. So the question whether yesterday's division was a snap division or not is borne out by the fact and the fact is this, that if the division had taken place 10 minutes later we would not have been defeated.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, only one word in answer to Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali's allegation. The Chief Minister thought it proper to issue a statement yesterday in support of his proposition that the voting was a snap division. He tried to give an estimate of the number of votes that he could have secured if voting took place at 7 o'clock in the evening. According to his estimate the number of votes that he expected to muster if the voting had taken place at that hour would be 11 votes more than what they actually succeeded in polling. That means that it would be 108. In our case also there were two or three votes which had been left out. In other words, all that the Chief Minister proclaimed in his statement was that they would have succeeded in defeating us by one vote. Would that not be a snap voting, I ask him in all seriousness? He put forward the proposition that if the voting had been delayed to the utmost limit he could have secured one vote more than what the Opposition had secured. That would have been a snap vote, if anything at all, and he wanted to carry on the administration by a majority

of one in this House. Could there be anything more ridiculous and more absurd even conceding that he would have succeeded in defeating the Opposition by getting 11 votes more?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: May we as ordinary members of the House know what is taking place? Yesterday, Sir, you would not allow me to complete one simple point of order and today there have been on some extraneous matter four, five, six members going on speaking and wasting the time of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: One thing I want to know from you or Sir Nazimuddin. What do you propose to do with regard to the demand that was thrown out by the House? That is very vital.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As I have already stated, it depends entirely as to how the thing goes today, and I cannot at this time tell you, Sir, what we propose to do.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does anybody want to say anything on this question

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is one thing, Sir. Dr. Sanyal has made a wrong statement that you called upon the Hon'ble Minister to move his demand and he did not move his demand. That is not correct. Yesterday the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Leader of the House made a statement that he did not wish to proceed with the business that day and requested you to adjourn the House and you did so. You did not call upon any Minister to move his demand and there was no refusal on the part of the Minister.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I had occasion to see the proceedings in that regard. The proceedings, if I remember aright, are these. When you called upon the Government side to carry on the business the Chief Minister and Leader of the House got up and said "In the circumstances today we do not propose to move any more demand for grant". I ask you to look up the proceedings, Sir, and in that respect I claim that "today" was significant. He did not say that "In the circumstances we shall not move any more motions today." "In the circumstances today", that is, "After we had experienced a defeat today we do not propose to move any more demand for grant". I ask you, Sir, to look up the proceedings.

Mr. J. R. WALKER: I do not want to enter into the legal details or arguments. Might I suggest that let the business of the House be left to the vote of the House to see whether the Government has got enough strength to beat the Opposition or not.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: This is your kept party, we all know that.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir,——

Mr. SPEAKER: What are you going to say?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On this point of order.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: What is the difference between yesterday and today? We were not allowed to say anything yesterday and today you are allowing so many speakers. I want to put in a protest.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I got up as many as ten times and you, Sir, kept our members down and they were denied of their right. They insisted on speaking on their cut motions but you did not allow them to move. On the other hand you gagged them and you snubbed them by saying "I know your tactics and I know your motive behind it". Therefore, Sir, we protested against this very expression of yours and you did not allow us even to give expression of our views against your uncharitable remarks with regard to the members on this side of the House who have got every right to speak as you are now allowing them to-day for which we do not find any justification. You are allowing so much time over a matter which is absolutely extraneous and not at all to the point at issue. Therefore, Sir, we draw your attention that you must keep the prestige of the Chair and be just and fair.

Mr. SPEAKER: One thing I must make clear. It is not proper that when some discussion on a point of order is going on you should bring in my conduct for criticism. I only ask you to consider how far that is proper. You have got every right to criticise my conduct on an appropriate motion brought before the House. You have got every right. I do not deny that you can remove me from here if I stick to it.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: May I just request you to look into the proceedings of yesterday.....(Cries of "Sit down, sit down" from the Opposition benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I put it like this. May we not cite your own ruling and your own conduct as a precedent? That is all we are doing. That is all we are asking. It is not criticism to cite your own ruling that you would not allow me even to complete my point of order or complete my sentence.

Mr. P. BANERJI: What rubbish you are talking!

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Now you can talk as long as you like and waste the time of the House.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Your conduct yesterday was definitely disorderly.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think a very important constitutional point has been raised and I am not prepared for it and so I think the House will grant me the indulgence to consider this point carefully.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Please consider it here. We won't allow the Opposition time to take recourse to bribery and corruption. We want a voting here and now.

Mr. SPEAKER: You want a division now?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a different matter.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Division on what?

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On the motion before the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We are not afraid of such challenges.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Yes, so long as the Marwaris are there.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, it is not tactics to accommodate the Opposition. That is not the way,

Mr. SPEAKER: You will see shortly.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Be mannerly in addressing the Chair.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Learn manners from you?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: It is only by avoiding you that I can learn manners.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yesterday after the demand for grant for Agriculture had been thrown out of the House I wanted to proceed with the rest of the business, but Sir Nazimuddin stated that Government would not move any further demand that day. He further stated that Government had not had reasonable opportunities of discussing the Agriculture demand and that he would take the vote of the House as a snap division evidently meaning as not a censure on the Ministry.

[On these facts, the present points of order have been raised. There appear to have been three points stressed. One is with regard to the carrying over of the business scheduled for yesterday to today. The other, if I have understood aright, is a complaint made by Sir Nazimuddin that the Government side was not allowed opportunities for discussing the Demand of Agriculture. The third and, in my opinion, the most important constitutional point that has been raised is what is the effect of the decision given by the House with regard to the demand for grant for Agriculture.]

Now I propose to deal with these three points separately. As to whether or not the business of yesterday's agenda not discussed and not voted upon can be discussed and voted upon today, the position appears to me to be this: Clause (*b*) of the proviso to section 84 of the Government of India Act empowers the Governor to make rules relating to the timely completion of financial business. In exercise of the said powers, the Governor has made certain rules. Whatever doubt there might be relating to the *intra vires* or *ultra vires* character of some of the provisions of these rules, I have not the least doubt that the Governor is competent to fix the last date for disposal of financial business; and in the present case the Governor has fixed today as the last date. As for the allotment of particular business for particular days, that has been done by the Speaker in consultation with the parties, mainly in consultation with the Opposition parties. This year too this had been done. Changes necessitated by circumstances have also been made by the Speaker from time to time. Yesterday the unfinished business was not taken up, and Sir Nazimuddin did not wish to proceed further and I had accordingly to adjourn. In my opinion the business that remained unfinished could be legally and regularly brought over to today and that has been done by me; (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Without a request from Government?) and in my opinion there is nothing in the law or in the rules which prevents the Speaker from doing it. On the other

hand, I think that rule 22 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules clearly gives the power to the Speaker, or in other words the rule says that practically automatically the business goes over to the next day for transaction of business of the same kind. I do not think therefore that there is any substance in the contention put forward by Dr. Sanyal that there is any irregularity with regard to the unfinished business being brought over to today.

Next, let me come to the complaint made by the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin. With regard to the alleged grievance on the Government side that they were not allowed to exercise their right to speak on or move cut motions, I should only like to lay before the House certain facts which, I hope, will speak for themselves.

Owing to the death of Sir A. F. Rahman, the House was adjourned on the 27th. Before the House was adjourned, I had a talk with Sir Nazimuddin as well as with some of the Opposition leaders. Both Sir Nazimuddin and the Opposition leaders felt somewhat inconvenienced to adjourn the House and there was in fact some suggestion from some leaders if we could transact business scheduled for the day after a short adjournment to show our respect for the late Sir A. F. Rahman. But in view of the practice so long prevailing, it was thought desirable to adjourn the House completely for the day. In the course of the talk, Sir Nazimuddin traced the origin of this practice and stated that the Speaker would have some day to take up the matter for discontinuing it. After it had been decided to adjourn the House wholly for the day, the question arose as to how and when the demand scheduled for discussion and voting on the 27th should be disposed of. The Opposition wanted an additional sitting in the morning.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Are you reading from any document, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have got my own notes.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: We only wanted to know.

Mr. SPEAKER: Everybody knows... .....

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Speaker is supposed to have some commonsense. Very serious reflections had been made on me by the Leader of the House yesterday and I have to meet them. The Opposition wanted an additional sitting in the morning. The Government discountenanced the proposal and I agreed with the Government. The two other alternative suggestions were: early sitting or extended sitting. The Assembly generally sits from 4 p.m. to 7-30 p.m. and it was suggested that we might sit early or sit at the usual hour and rise later. Now sitting for extended hours is generally opposed by the Goverment side on the ground of inconvenience to members, specially to the European members who take their dinner at about 8 p.m. In the present case also, the same ground was urged on behalf of Government side. The Government Chief Whip went to the extent that if the House lost a day appointed by the Governor for the discussion of the Budget for no fault of Government, the Opposition was not entitled to extended or longer hours or time but that they should be satisfied with the usual time from 4 p.m. to 7-30 p.m. for all the demands originally scheduled both for 27th and 28th. I persuaded the Government Chief Whip to agree to an early sitting and it was at the desire of the Hon'ble Chief Minister as communicated to me by the Government Chief Whip that 3 p.m. was fixed for the commencement of the Assembly.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: In order to accommodate you, I had to do it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am making my statement——

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I did not then realise that you wanted to help the Opposition.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: He did not realise that they would get a beating in the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is very difficult for the Speaker to continue if interruptions are made constantly like this. I have got to give my decision according to my light. You may agree or disagree. In fact when just after declaring in the House that the Assembly would sit at 3 p.m. yesterday I had gone to my Chamber, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain, Minister for Agriculture, saw me and asked me why 3 p.m. and not 2 p.m. was fixed for the sitting of the House and I told him at once that the time was fixed at the desire of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The underlying idea was that the one extra hour would be available for discussion and voting on the demands for Agriculture and Veterinary originally scheduled for the 27th. This was not quite acceptable to the Opposition and in fact even after this had been decided, Dr. Sanyal approached me with his Leader Mr. K. S. Roy and insisted that the sitting should be continued even after 7-30 p.m. if necessary. But in view of the attitude taken up by the Government Chief Whip I did not commit myself. In the course of the discussion on the 27th instant with the Opposition Whips for fixing the time for yesterday's sitting I wanted to ascertain from them what time according to them should be allotted for Agriculture and Veterinary demands. But they seemed reluctant to give me any definite idea. Thereupon I requested the Opposition Whips to give me yesterday some idea as to the time. The Government Chief Whip saw me thereafter and enquired of me if the Opposition Whips had given me any idea about the allotment of time for the demands and I replied in the negative. I also told him at the same time that they had been requested to give me their idea about the time the next day. The Government Chief Whip further stated that even if a definite time be allotted for any demand, voting might take place before the end of the time allotted and I told him that that was quite probable. None however turned up and gave me any idea about the time. When, I think, the bell was ringing or was about to ring for the sitting of the House yesterday, the Government Chief Whip approached me in my Chamber and asked me if the Opposition Whips had given me any idea about the allotment of time. I told him that none had come and none had given me any idea.

Coming now to the proceedings of the day, we sat punctually at 3 p.m. yesterday. Questions took about 25 minutes. The Hon'ble Minister moved the demand for grant without any speech. The cut motions scheduled for being moved were called one after another but none of them were moved. It appeared at about this time that a large number of members belonging to the Ministerial party had crossed the floor of the House. The Opposition wanted vote straightaway claiming that they commanded majority in the House. Some members rose from the Government side claiming to move cut motions and some to speak. Others rose on point of order. This state of things continued for about half an hour. In the meantime I had said that I would allow the Hon'ble Minister to speak for 10 minutes. At about 3-55 p.m. the Hon'ble Minister began to speak and in the meantime I began calculating as to what would be the proper time when I should put the demand to vote. I found that on the basis of one hour allotted to the demand for Agriculture and Veterinary as already stated, both the demands must be completed before 4-25 p.m.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: In what way?

Mr. SPEAKER: But I calculated also in a different way——

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On what basis, Sir? You gave me an idea of about 5-30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: You may say that but you must hear what I am now stating. But I calculated also in a different way. I calculated it sitting here while the member was speaking——

(At this stage Mr. Fazlur Rahman rose to speak and there was a loud noise in the House.)

Order, please. Mr. Fazlur Rahman, you can make a statement after I have finished. I cannot quarrel with you. I am now making a statement which according to you may be incorrect but you may make a statement after I have finished.

I calculated also in a different way, namely, to give half of the time available during the sitting to demands for Agriculture and Veterinary together, for which originally one day was allotted and the other half to Famine for which also originally one day was allotted. Thus calculated keeping a margin of about 15 minutes for voting and division, if any, and thirty minutes for prayer recesses the total time available became three hours and twenty minutes for all the demands. Half of it being given to Famine one hour and forty minutes was available for Agriculture and Veterinary. I allotted one hour and five minutes for Agriculture and thirty-five minutes for Veterinary. Thus though I had originally said that I would allow the Hon'ble Minister to speak for ten minutes only, I did not stop him and he finished reading out his written speech and resumed his seat at about 4-22 and while he was still speaking at the insistent demand of the Opposition, according to the calculation already stated, I stated that I would put the matter to vote punctually at 4-30 p.m. Thereafter when the Minister had finished his speech I called upon Maulvi Ahmed Ali Mridha who wanted to speak. Mr. Mridha spoke for about ten minutes and if I had followed him properly he scarcely uttered a word relevant to the subject matter under discussion but cast reflections on the members who crossed the floor and also perhaps on the Opposition. Thereafter according to my previous announcement I put the matter at about 4-32 and the division was completed at about 4-42.

A glance at the rules will show that the Minister in moving the demand could speak and after criticism of the demand by the Opposition and the replies or debates, if any on the demand, the Minister could again speak. In this case the Hon'ble Minister did not at all speak while moving the demand in the usual expectation that he would meet criticism after the cut motions had been moved and the demand criticised and debated upon. Unexpectedly no cut motion was moved, nor any criticism offered by the Opposition. There was thus practically nothing to reply to but still I allowed the Hon'ble Minister to explain the viewpoint of the Government, with regard to the demand specially because the Minister had not spoken in the beginning in the expectation that things would take the usual course. I do not think it can be denied that criticism of demand is mainly the privilege of the Opposition and the major share of the total time allotted for any discussion is normally taken by the Opposition. In this case about 37 minutes in actual speech was taken by the Government side and not a minute by the Opposition. It may be noted that the Speaker has got the right and power to fix time-limit for discussion. These are the facts and I do not want to give any opinion. The matter must be left to the House.

One word with regard to not allowing cut motions to be moved by the Government side members. Cut motions which are more or less in the

nature of censure should not in my opinion be allowed to be moved by the members supporting the Government and as far as I remember it has never been allowed as long as I have been the Speaker and this practice which I consider to be a sound one has been handed down from the time of Sir Azizul Huque.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Cut motions also raise a discussion and are not a vote of censure.

Mr. SPEAKER: (*Vide* proceedings Vol. LII, No. 5, 1938, pages 63 to 69). The matter went so far that during the last Budget session while the European Party moved certain cut motions but subsequently asked for permission to withdraw, Dr. Sanyal, Whip of the Official Congress Party, objected to this procedure on the ground that the European Party, though calling itself independent, had invariably supported the Government and it was not proper that they should be allowed to move cut motions and then to withdraw them. This led Mr. Stark, the Whip of the European Party, to approach me this year as to whether they would be permitted to move cut motions this year. It thus appears to me to be pretty clear that far from allowing cut motions to be moved by members belonging to the Ministerial Party the moving of cut motions by members of an independent Party that generally supports the Government has been objected to. I am not aware of any occasion when I or the Deputy Speaker had allowed any cut motion to be moved by the Ministerial Party. On the other hand, as I have already stated, the present practice of not allowing cut motions to be moved by members of the Ministerial Party was introduced by Sir Azizul Huque after due consideration and it has not been departed from since. Of course members of all parties are allowed to offer general remarks on the Budget during the general discussion as well as on the demand for grant.

Now, this is only with regard to the complaint made by Sir Nazimuddin with regard to my depriving the Government side of their legitimate right of discussion.

The most important question however is the question as to what is the effect of the decision of the House refusing the demand for grant for Agriculture. In ordinary course I would have taken a fairly long time to consider this matter, but circumstanced as I am today, namely, I have got to give this decision before 6-30 p.m. today—I am compelled to give a decision here and now, but I think I have given my best consideration up till now and my decision is as follows:—

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That is not your function.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is certainly my function—who says that it is not my function?—because I have got to decide whether I should allow other motions to be moved. But I think it would have been better if you had given me a little more time for calmer consideration, but you have compelled me to state here and now what my decision should be. Sir Nazimuddin said yesterday that he would treat this as a snap division and not a censure. I am afraid the constitutional position has not been properly conceived. The Ministry is the creature of the House; the House can make and unmake the Ministry and the Governor is but the registering authority of the decision of the House. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Opposition benches.) Any other course, I am afraid, would strike at the very root of democracy. Now, besides direct No-confidence motion against the Ministry as a whole or against individual Ministers, there are other recognised modes of expressing No-confidence or censure on the Ministry as a whole or on individual Ministers, and one of such modes is the throwing out of demand. Refusal by the House of a demand for grant made by the Ministry for a major department which makes the administration impossible is an unmistakable

censure. Nor is it permissible under the rules to bring forward the same demand again before the House during the same session—*vide* rule 39 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules. In a case of this nature after the verdict has been recorded by the House the Ministry, or in the case of a Ministry with joint responsibility, the Chief Minister carries on the routine business of the administration practically theoretically preparatory to making over charge to his successor, who, according to the Indian Constitution, would normally be the Leader of the Opposition if appointed by the Governor as Chief Minister and in exceptional circumstances the Governor himself where, in appropriate cases, section 93 is resorted to. Now, I have grave doubts if in the present case the Speaker should allow any Minister including the Chief Minister to transact any Government business. Sir Nazimuddin may claim that the decision of the House as given on the demand for grant for Agriculture does not really reflect the opinion of the majority of the House, but I doubt if it is permissible to be dragged into the realm of speculation after the verdict of the House against the Ministry. I doubt, therefore, I cannot allow the Ministry to function as Ministry in this House. (Cheers from Opposition Benches.) Besides rule 39 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules is a complete bar to moving the motion for demand for grant for Agriculture during the current session, and in view of my previous ruling that the budget is an indivisible unitary document which should be carried through during one and the same session of the Assembly and in view of the further fact that this has become impossible now, I do not think I can or should allow the Ministry or any Minister to move any further demand for grant.

In these circumstances I think the House cannot function any longer unless a new Ministry is formed.

The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 5-35 p.m. *sine die*.

BGP-48/6-2436A-600

Index to the

Bengal Legislative Assembly Proceedings.

(Official Report.)

Vol. LXIX—No. 2—Twentieth Session, 1945.

(The 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 27th, 28th and 29th March, 1945.)

[(Q.) Stands for question.]

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.

Demand for Grant: 37—Education—General: p. 175

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza

Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee (Q.) p. 436.
Re-excavation of tanks under rehabilitation programme (Q.) p. 259.
Supply of materials and implements to weavers and artisans of Tangail (Q.) p. 437.
Post-War Reconstruction Committee of Bengal. (Q.) p. 102.

Abdul Hakim, Maulvi

Appointment of Assistant Section Holders in Bengal Government Press (Q.) p. 258.
Filling up of vacancies in the piece establishment of Bengal Government Press (Q.) p. 343.

Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Mr. Md.

Appointment of Assistant Section Holders in Bengal Government Press. (Q.) p. 257.
Filling up of vacancies in the piece establishment of Bengal Government Press. (Q.) p. 338.

Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi

Demand for Grant: 7—Land Revenue: pp. 41-42.
Scheme for improving the subordinate inspectorate for proper supervision of primary schools: (Q.) p. 333.

Abdul Metaleb Malik, Dr.

Point of order regarding unparliamentary expressions used by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal: pp. 512, 521.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi

Demand for Grants: 85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939: pp. 449-50.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi—*concld.*

Demand for Grant:
50 Civil Works and 81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue: p. 285.
37—Education—General: p. 153.
General Administration: p. 330.
57 Miscellaneous p. 137.
47 Miscellaneous Departments: pp. 515-16.
13 Other Taxes and Duties: p. 94.
29 Police: p. 375.

Regarding Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, M.L.A., a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 184.

Abdur Razzak, Maulana

Demand for Grants: 85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939. pp. 466-67.

Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.

Appointment of Assistant Section Holders in Bengal Government Press. (Q.) p. 257.
Filling up of vacancies in the piece establishment of Bengal Government Press: (Q.) p. 338.
Number of deaths, district by district, in the province from starvation since 24th April 1943: (Q.) p. 100.

Adjournment motion

Regarding assault on security prisoners: p. 21.
Regarding *lathi* charge by police constables and sergeants on the workers of the factory of Messrs. Burn & Co., Howrah: p. 389.

Agents

Method of selection and details of persons appointed as—or controlled shop-keepers in Khulna, Jessore and Murshidabad districts: (Q.) p. 187.

Gratis.

Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi

Demand for Grants:
40—Agriculture: pp. 546-47.
37—Education—General: p. 174.
42—Co-operation: p. 242.
7—Land Revenue: pp. 42-43.
Grievances of Haj pilgrims of Bengal: (Q.) p. 535.
Indenture of essential food commodities for Faridpur district: (Q.) p. 532.
Steps taken by Government to combat malaria in Faridpur: (Q.) p. 67.
Vital statistics of the Goalundo subdivision: (Q.) p. 100.

Allowance

Of Inspectors and Auditors of Co-operative Societies: (Q.) p. 58.

Application(s)

For leave of absence: pp. 260, 536.

Appointment

Of Assistant Section-holders in Bengal Government Press: (Q.) pp. 257, 258.
Of dismissed, discharged and retired Government servants: (Q.) p 338
In the Fisheries Department: (Q.) p. 74.
Of Sergeants in Calcutta Police: (Q.) p. 8.
Of Scheduled Caste candidates as District and Sessions Judges in Bengal: (Q.) p. 188.
Of Supply Officer, Narail, Jessore: (Q.) p. 52.

Arakan Road

Improvement of the—. (Q.) p. 74

Arrangement

For reporting Hindi speeches: pp. 309-310.

Arrest

Of Sj. Moolraj Mehta: (Q.) p. 141.

Asimuddin Ahmed, Maulvi

Demand for grant:
25—General Administration—Debt conciliation: p. 250.
7—Land Revenue: p. 44.

Assault

On prisoners in Jail: p. 536.
On security prisoners in the hospital ward of the Rajshahi Jail: (Q.) p. 297.
Statement by the Hon'ble Home Minister about—on security prisoners: p. 105.

Assistant Registrar

Of Co-operative Societies, Dacca: (Q.) p. 58.

Assistant Section-holders

Appointment of—in Bengal Government Press: (Q.) pp. 257, 258.

Authenticated Supplementary Schedules of Expenditure

Presentation of—: p. 23.

Badi Ahmed Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Haji

Demand for grants:
85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939: pp. 463-64.
50—Civil Works and 81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue: p. 290.
10—Forests: p. 88.
43—Industries—Cinchona: p. 509.
43—Industries—Industries: pp. 498-99.
57—Miscellaneous: p. 131.
5—Salt: pp. 27-28.
9—Stamps: p. 85.
4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax: p. 25.

Bamboo cultivation: (Q.) p. 15.

Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath

Point of order regarding the effect of the adverse vote passed by the Assembly upon the Ministry under demand "40—Agriculture": pp. 550-53.

Banerjee, Mr. Satya Priya

Facilities for security prisoners to interview with relatives. (Q.) p. 53.
Grievances of security prisoners in Dum Dum Central Jail: (Q.) p. 334.
Security prisoner Sj. Narayan Chandra Datta: (Q.) p. 337.

Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath

Arrest of Sj. Moolraj Mehta: (Q.) p. 141.

Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra

Mulberry cultivation and fixation of price of cocoon: (Q.) p. 70.

Banerjee, Mr. P.

Appointment of Supply Officer, Narail, Jessore (Q.) p. 52.
Demand for Grants
43—Industries—Cinchona: pp. 508-509.
29—Police: pp. 373-75.
25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation: p. 247.

Barma, the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari

Bamboo cultivation: (Q.) p. 15.
Demand for Grant
10—Forests: pp. 86, 90.
43—Industries—Cinchona: pp. 507, 514-15.
8—Provincial Excise: pp. 77, 81.
Sabai-grass cultivation: (Q.) p. 18.

Barma, Mr. Puspajit

Demand for grant: XVII, etc.—Irrigation: p. 268.

Barman, Babu Syamaprasad

Granting of gratuity to the heirs of a chowkidar of police-station Raiganj shot to death when on duty: (Q.) p. 2.
Number of Town and Union Food and Development Committees in Dinajpur district: (Q.) p. 533.
Recruitment of Sub-Inspectors of police in 1944: (Q.) p. 14.

Barman, Mr. Upendra Nath

Demand for Grants: 85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939: pp. 464-66.

Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar

Demand for Grants
63—Extraordinary charges in India: pp. 412-15.
8—Provincial Excise: p. 81.
On the point of order raised by Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee regarding the effect of the adverse vote passed by the Assembly upon the Ministry under demand "40—Agriculture": p. 558.

Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee: (Q.) p. 436.

Bengal Government Press

Filling up of vacancies in the Piece Establishment of: (Q.) p. 338.

Bengal Money-lenders Act, 1940

Exclusion of some Banks from operation of: (Q.) p. 439.

Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra

Demand for Grant: 39—Public Health: p. 212.

Birkmyre, Sir Henry

Demand for Grants
85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939: p. 466.
8—Provincial Excise: p. 80.

Biswas, Maulvi Abdul Latif

Allowance of Inspectors and Auditors of Co-operative Societies: (Q.) p. 58.

Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath

Demand for grants: 85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939: pp. 459-61.

Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath

Demand for Grant
27—Administration of Justice: p. 109.
37—Education—General: p. 161.
63—Extraordinary charges in India: pp. 397-400.
57—Miscellaneous: p. 133.
Exemption of conscientious objectors from vaccination: (Q.) p. 69.
Present arrangement for ascertaining and recording of deaths due to starvation: (Q.) p. 184.

Chaukidary Reward and Equipment Fund for 24-Parganas: (Q.) p. 443.

Construction

Of embankments on southern part of Khulna: (Q.) p. 102.
Of footpaths on both sides of the line over the railway bridge in the Chandpur town: (Q.) p. 305.
Of Sarta bridge over the river Haldi: (Q.) p. 140.

Controlled shopkeepers

Method of selection and details of persons appointed as agents or in Khulna, Jessore and Murshidabad districts: (Q.) p. 187.

Control on prices of various articles

Effect of ...: (Q.) p. 436.

Darjeeling Seed Potato Suppliers' Association: (Q.) p. 530.

Das, Mr. Radhanath

Demand for Grant
12—Co-operation: p. 238.
37—Education—General: p. 162.
General Administration: pp. 329-30.
8—Provincial Excise: p. 78.
XVII, etc.—Irrigation: p. 270.
11—Registration: p. 183.
9—Stamps: p. 84.

Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath

Increment of family allowance to Babu Sitala Kanta Maitra, a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 7.
Eye troubles of Dr. Atindra Nath Bose, a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 1.
Release of Babu Narayan Chandra Dutta, a security prisoner, on grounds of health: (Q.) p. 303.

Das Gupta, Miss Kamala, B.A., a security prisoner

Release of: (Q.) p. 185.

Das Gupta, Sj. Narendra Nath

Demand for Grants
63—Extraordinary charges in India: pp. 400-401.
General Administration: pp. 318-20.
38—Medical: p. 193.
Medical treatment of security prisoner, Sj. Priyalal Sarkar: (Q.) p. 223.
Increment of family allowance of Nalini Das Gupta, a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 435.

Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath

Demand for Grants
63—Extraordinary charges in India: pp. 409-411.
10—Forests: p. 87.
General Administration: pp. 344-47.
43—Industries—Industries: pp. 482-85.
XVII, etc.—Irrigation: p. 271.
28—Jails and Convict Settlements: p. 126.
7—Land Revenue: pp. 36-38.
5—Salt: p. 28.
Industrial School at Nangalkot in Tippera district: (Q.) p. 528.

Datta, Mr. Sukumar

Demand for Grants: 43—Industries—Industries: pp. 492-93.
Opening of F. R. E. Hospitals and Sattelite Treatment Centres: (Q.) p. 224.

Datta Gupta, Miss Mira

Demand for grant:
37—Education—General: p. 151.
XVII, etc.—Irrigation: p. 275.
38—Medical: p. 202.
Release of Mrs. Labanya Das Gupta and Miss Shaila Sen on grounds of health: (Q.) p. 477.

Datta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu

Grant of leave to Sj. Sunirmal Datta, a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 475.

Dearth

Of materials for different industries in Birbhum district: (Q.) p. 72.

Death(s)

Due to starvation in Bengal. (Q.) p. 222.
Due to starvation in Bengal during 1943: (Q.) p. 257.
Due to starvation. Present arrangement for ascertaining and recording of—: (Q.) p. 184.
Number of—, district by district, in the province from starvation since 24th April, 1943: (Q.) p. 100.
Number of—in the subdivisions of Bakarganj district: (Q.) p. 79.

Defence of India Rules

Disposal of vehicles requisitioned by Government under—: (Q.) p. 69.

Delay in disposal of cases by Sadar Subdivisional Officer, Dinajpur: (Q.) p. 438.

Demand for Grant(s)

27—Administration of Justice: p. 106.
40—Agriculture: pp. 536-49.
85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939: pp. 444-74.
50—Civil Works and 81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue: p. 283.
42—Co-operation: p. 227.
37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European. p. 18.
37—Education—General: p. 151.
63—Extraordinary charges in India: pp. 390-427.
10—Forests: p. 86.
25—General Administration—General Administration: pp. 310-30, 344-68.
25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation: p. 247.
43—Industries—Cinchona: pp. 507-15.
43—Industries—Industries: pp. 482-507.
XVII, etc.—Irrigation: p. 261.
28—Jails and Convict Settlements: p. 116.
[illegible]—Land Revenue: pp. 31-48.
[illegible]—Medical: p. 190.

Demands for grant(s)—*concld.*

57—Miscellaneous: p. 131.
47—Miscellaneous Departments: pp. 515-23.
13—Other Taxes and Duties: p. 91.
29—Police: pp. 370-76.
8—Provincial Excise: p. 77.
39—Public Health: p. 212.
11—Registration: p. 182.
5—Salt: pp. 27-31.
9—Stamps: p. 84.
56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses: p. 254.
4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax: p. 23.

Disposal

Of vehicles requisitioned by Government under the Defence of India Rules. (Q.) p. 69.

District School Board

Financial position of Faridpur—: (Q.) p. 256.

Disturbance at the annual session of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema, Bangala: p. 377.

Division

On cut motions of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal regarding 63—Extraordinary charges in India pp. 425-26.
On a cut motion of Maulvi Walilur Rahman under "38—Medical": p. 210.
On the budget demand under "40—Agriculture". pp 547-49.
On the cut motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal regarding General Administration: pp. 368-69.

Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath

Demand for Grant
XVII, etc.—Irrigation. p. 271.
38—Medical: p. 201.

Duties

And functions of certain public health staffs. (Q.) p. 64.

Edbar, Mr. Upendra Nath

Demand for Grant—General Administration: pp. 320-21.
Number of deaths in the subdivisions of the Bakarganj district: (Q.) p. 99.

Effect

Of control on prices of various articles: (Q.) p. 436.

Embankments

Construction of—on southern part of Khulna: (Q.) p. 102.

Enquiry

Into spreading of tuberculosis among security prisoners in Presidency Jail: (Q.) p. 56.

Establishment

Of a municipality at Kalimpong: (Q.) p. 62.

Evacuees in Jessore

Influx of—: (Q.) p. 442.

Excavation

Of the river Noakhali in Khulna: (Q.) p. 255.

Exclusion

Of some Banks from operation of Bengal Money-lenders Act, 1940. (Q.) p. 439.

Executive Officers

Transfer of—: (Q.) p. 224.

Exemption

Of conscientious objectors from vaccination: (Q.) p. 69.

Extension

Of service granted to the staff of High Court, Appellate Side. (Q.) p. 441

Eye-troubles

Of Dr. Atindra Nath Bose, a security prisoner. (Q.) p. 1.

Facilities

For security prisoners to interview with relatives (Q.) p. 53.

Family allowance

Increment of—to Babu Sitala Kanta Maitra, a security prisoner (Q.) p. 7.

Of Nalini Das Gupta, a security prisoner. Increment of— (Q.) p. 435.

Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K.

Regarding question of a general discussion on a budget motion p. 539.

Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi

Demand for grant 5 Salt pp 29-30

Fazlur Rahman, Khan Bahadur

Appointment of Assistant Section-holders in Bengal Government Press (Q.) p 258.

Filling up of vacancies in the Piece Establishment of Bengal Government Press. (Q. p. 343.

Fazlur Rahman, Mr.

Applications for leave of absence: p. 536.

Point of order regarding question of a general discussion on a budget motion: p. 537.

Ferguson, Mr. F. F. M.

Demand for grant: 38—Medical: p. 203.

Filling up-

Of vacancies in the Piece Establishment of Bengal Government Press: (Q.) p. 338.

Financial position

Of Faridpur District School Board: (Q.) p. 256.

Fisheries Department

Appointment in the—: (Q.) p. 74.

Flood-control schemes: (Q.) p. 223.

F. R. E. Hospital(s)

And Satellite Treatment Centres. Opening of—. (Q.) p. 224.

Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna

Deaths due to starvation in Bengal during 1943. (Q.) p. 257.

Demand for grants—29—Police: pp. 370-73.

Effect of control on prices of various articles (Q.) p. 436.

Influx of evacuees in Jessore: (Q.) p. 442

Nomination of members for Jessore Municipality (Q. p. 331.

Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.

Demand for grant(s)
General Administration: pp. 328-29.
11 Registration p. 182.

Inconvenience of haj-pilgrims of Bengal: (Q.) p. 105.

Gladding, Mr. D.

Demand for grants: 63—Extraordinary charges in India: pp. 415-16.

Golam Sarwar Hossaini, Maulvi Shah Syed

Demand for grant
37—Education—General p. 168.
50 Civil Works and 81 Civil Works not charged to Revenue p. 292
25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation p. 252.
43—Industries—Industries. pp 487-89.
XVII, etc.—Irrigation: p. 277.
38—Medical p. 205.
13—Other Taxes and Duties: p. 93.

Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra

Appointment of Assistant Section-holders in Bengal Government Press: (Q.) pp. 257, 258.

Appointment of dismissed, discharged and retired Government servants: (Q.) p. 339.

Demand for grant
57 Miscellaneous: p. 131.
56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses: p. 254.
4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax. pp. 23, 26-27.

Filling up of vacancies in the Piece Establishment of Bengal Government Press: (Q. p. 338.

Granting of gratuity

To the heirs of a chowkidar of police-station Raiganj shot to death when on duty: (Q.) p. 2.

Grant of leave

To Sj. Sunirmal Dutta, a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 475.

Grievances

Of Haj pilgrims of Bengal: (Q.) p. 535.
Of security prisoners in Dum Dum Central Jail: (Q.) p. 334.

Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra

Demand for grant(s
28—Jails and Convict Settlements. p. 124.
General Administration: pp. 357-58.
39—Public Health: p. 214.
5—Salt: p. 29.

Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh

Demand for grant(s)
43—Industries—Cinchona: pp. 509-511.
7—Land Revenue pp. 39-41.
Establishment of a municipality at Kalimpong: (Q.) p. 62.

Haj Pilgrims

Inconvenience of—in Bengal (Q.) p. 105.
Grievances of of Bengal: (Q.) p. 535.

Hand-loom industry

In Bankura district (Q.) p. 342.

Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.

Demand for grant. 42—Co-operation p. 239.

Holding of meetings

In Chittagong (Q.) p. 101.
In colliery area: (Q.) p. 339.

Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi

Demand for grant
42—Co-operation: p. 240
37—Education—General p. 171.

Improvement

Of the Arakan Road: (Q.) p. 71.

Incident

In Alipore Central Jail on 6th March, 1945 (Q.) p. 141.

Inconvenience

Of Haj-pilgrims of Bengal. (Q. p. 105.

Increment

Of family allowance of Nalini Das Gupta, a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 435.
Of family allowance to Babu Sitala Kanta Maitra, a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 7.

Indenture

Of essential food commodities for Faridpur district: (Q.) p. 532.

Industrial School

At Naugalkut in Tippera district: (Q.) p. 528.

Industries

Dearth of materials for different—in Birbhum district: (Q.) p. 72.

Influx

Of evacuees in Jessore: (Q.) p. 442.

Inspectors and Auditors

Allowance of—of Co-operative Societies: (Q.) p. 58.

Irrigation scheme(s)

For Bankura district: (Q.) p. 255.

Jail Departments

Muslim officers in—: (Q.) p. 382.

Jalaluddin Ahmad, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi

Deaths due to starvation in Bengal: (Q.) p. 222.
Deaths due to starvation in Bengal during 1943 (Q.) p. 257.
Demand for grant
38—Medical. pp. 190, 206.
39—Public Health: pp. 212, 219.
Duties and functions of certain public health staffs (Q.) p. 64.
Exemption of conscientious objectors from vaccination: (Q.) p. 69.
Establishment of a municipality at Kalimpong (Q. p. 62.
Influx of evacuees in Jessore: (Q.) p. 442.
Malpractice in issue and distribution of quinine in Murshidabad district: (Q.) p. 479.
Nomination of members for Jessore Municipality: (Q.) p. 331.
Nomination of the South Suburban Municipality (Q.) p. 58.
Number of deaths, district by district, in the province from starvation since 24th April, 1943. (Q.) p. 100.
Number of deaths in the subdivisions of the Bakarganj district: (Q.) p. 99.
Opening of F. R. E. Hospitals and Sattchite Treatment Centres. (Q.) p. 224.
Postponement of Union Board elections in Tangail subdivision, Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 103.
Present arrangement for ascertaining and recording of deaths due to starvation. (Q.) p. 184.
Selling of quinine in black-markets: (Q. p. 63.
Steps taken by Government to combat malaria in Faridpur: (Q.) p. 67.
Vital statistics of Midnapore: (Q.) p. 61.
Vital statistics of the Goalundo subdivision: (Q.) p. 100.

Jalan, Mr. I. D.

Demand for grants: 63—Extraordinary charges in India: pp. 406-409.
Exclusion of some banks from operation of Bengal Money-lenders Act, 1940: (Q.) p. 439.

Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur

Chaukidary Reward and Equipment Fund for 24-Parganas: (Q.) p. 443.

Jessore Municipality

Nomination of members for—: (Q.) p. 331.

Jalaluddin Ali Majumdar, Maulvi

Construction of footpaths on both sides of the line over the railway bridge in the Chandpur town: (Q.) p. 305.

Kiron Chakravarti

Release of Miss—, a security prisoner, on medical grounds: (Q.) p. 442.

Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra

Demand for grant(s)
37—Education—General: p. 163.
43—Industries—Industries: pp. 489-92.

Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath

Adjournment motion of—regarding assault on security prisoners p. 21.
Adjournment motion regarding *lathi* charge by police constables and sergeants on the workers of the factory of Messrs. Burn & Co., Howrah: p. 390.
Alleged delay in disposal of cases by Sadar Subdivisional Officer, Dinajpur: (Q.) p. 438.
Assault on security prisoners in the hospital ward of the Rajshahi Jail. (Q.) p. 297.
Demand for grant(s)
85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939. pp. 445-49.
50—Civil Works and 81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue: p. 291.
General Administration pp. 348-52.
XVII, etc.—Irrigation: p. 265.
28—Jails and Convict Settlements p. 116.
47—Miscellaneous Departments pp. 519-20.
Incident in Alipore Central Jail on 6th March, 1945. (Q.) p. 141.
Release of Miss Kiron Chakravarti, a security prisoner, on medical grounds: (Q.) p. 442.
Supply of fine rice to security prisoners in Dinajpur Jail. (Q.) p. 6.
Transfer of Executive Officers (Q.) p. 224.
Want of latrines and urinals in Civil Courts, Sadar, Dinajpur (Q.) p. 444.

Lahiry, Babu Ashutosh

Demand for grant(s)
37—Education—General: p. 157.
General Administration: pp. 323-24.
57—Miscellaneous. p. 135.
85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939: pp. 454-56.

Latrines and urinals in Civil Courts, Sadar, Dinajpur

Want of—: (Q.) p. 444.

Leave of absence

Application for—: p. 260.

Laiek, Mr. Jotin

Demand for grants—47—Miscellaneous Departments: pp. 520-21.

Macintosh, Mr. G.

Demand for grants—General Administration: pp. 354-57.

Maharajadhiraja Bahadur Uday Chand, of Burdwan

Demand for grant—XVII, etc.—Irrigation: p. 267.

Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari

Enquiry into spread of tuberculosis among security prisoners in Presidency Jail: (Q.) p. 56.
Position of rice and wheat in Bengal: (Q.) p. 59.
Vital statistics of Midnapore: (Q.) p. 61.
Release of Miss Kamala Das Gupta, B.A., a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 186.

Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar

Darjeeling Seed Potato Suppliers' Association. (Q.) p. 530.

Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova

Demand for grant
42—Co-operation: p. 227.
39—Public Health: p. 216.

Malaria

Steps taken by Government to combat —in Faridpur: (Q.) p. 67.

Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra

Demand for grant
27—Administration of Justice: p. 108.
37—Education—General. p. 160.
28—Jails and Convict Settlements: p. 116.
7—Land Revenue pp. 32-34.
Relief under Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1944: (Q.) p. 304.

Mal-practice

In issue and distribution of quinine in Murshidabad district: (Q.) p. 478.

Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal

Extension of service granted to the staff of High Court, Appellate Side: (Q.) p. 441.

Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra

Appointment of Scheduled Caste candidates as District and Sessions Judges in Bengal. (Q.) p. 188.

Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad

Upper Primary and Lower Primary Schools of Midnapore district having at least one-third of the students belonging to Scheduled Castes: (Q.) p. 535.

Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath

Allowance of Inspectors and Auditors of Co-operative Societies: (Q.) p. 58.
Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Dacca: (Q.) p. 58.
Demand for grant
42—Co-operation: pp. 227, 242.
25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation: pp. 247, 258.

Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana, M.L.A.

Regarding—, a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 184.

Maqbul Hossain, Mr.

Demand for grant
13—Other Taxes and Duties: p. 93.
8—Provincial Excise: p. 77.

Measures

For relief of pressure of work of Subdivisional Officers: (Q.) p. 433.

Medical treatment

Of certain political prisoners: (Q.) p. 3.
Of Sj. Priyalal Sarkar, a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 223.

Meeting(s)

Holding of—in colliery area: (Q.) p. 339.
Holding of—in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 104.

Message from the Bengal Legislative Council

Regarding Albert Victor Leper Hospital (Amendment) Bill, 1944: p. 536.
Regarding passing of the Bengal Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1944: p. 309.
Regarding Suppression of Immoral Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 1945: p. 444.

Metheld, Mr. J. H.

Demand for grants—43—Industries—Industries: pp. 499-501.
Disposal of vehicles requisitioned by Government under Defence of India Rules: (Q.) p. 69.

Mahammed Ali, Khan Bahadur

Demand for grant
28—Jails and Convict Settlements: p. 127.
57—Miscellaneous: p. 138.
On the point of order raised by Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee regarding the effect of the adverse vote passed by the Assembly upon the Ministry under demand "40—Agriculture": pp. 558, 559.
On the unparliamentary expressions used by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal: pp. 512, 513.
Point of order regarding question of a general discussion on a budget motion: p. 537.
Regarding permission to move a motion in the name of the Deputy Speaker: pp. 324, 325, 326.

Meeiraj Mehta, Sj.

Arrest of—: (Q.) p. 141.

Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.

Muslim officers in Jail Departments: (Q.) p. 382.

Mozammel Huq, Mr. Md.

Demand for grant—XVII, etc.—Irrigation: p. 276.

Muazzamuddin Hossain, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyad

Appointments in the Fisheries Department: (Q.) p. 74.
Darjeeling Seed Potato Suppliers' Association: (Q.) p. 531.
Demand for grants
40—Agriculture: pp. 536, 542, 543-45.
43—Industries—Industries: pp. 501-502.

Muhammad Israil, Maulvi

Demand for grant
42—Co-operation: p. 237.
37—Education—General: p. 164.
XVII, etc.—Irrigation: p. 273.
7—Land Revenue: pp. 38-39.
Regarding question of a general discussion on a budget motion: p. 538.

Mukherjee, Mr. B.

Demand for grants—47—Miscellaneous Departments: pp. 516-19.
Holding of meetings in colliery area: (Q.) p. 339.

Mukherjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath

Demand for grant
7—Land Revenue: pp. 31, 45-48.
13—Other Taxes and Duties: pp. 91, 95.
9—Stamps: pp. 84, 86.
Re-excavation of tanks under rehabilitation programme: (Q.) p. 259.
Relief under Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1944: (Q.) p. 304.

Mukherjee, Dr. Sharat Chandra

Dearth of materials for different industries in Birbhum district: (Q.) p. 72.
Demand for grant—38—Medical: p. 190.

Mulberry cultivation

And fixation of price of cocoon: (Q.) p. 70.

Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary

Demand for grant
27—Administration of Justice: p. 112.
42—Co-operation: p. 235.

Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary

Demand for grants—General Administration: pp. 358-60.
National War Front in Murshidabad district: (Q.) p. 432.
Organisation of National War Fronts in districts of Bengal: (Q.) p. 428.

Municipality

Establishment of a—at Kalimpong: (Q.) p. 62.

Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur

Alleged delay in disposal of cases by Sadar Subdivisional Officer, Dinajpur: (Q.) p. 439.
Demand for grant—27—Administration of Justice: pp. 106, 113, 114.

Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.—*concld.*

Exclusion of some banks from operation of Bengal Money-lenders' Act, 1940: (Q.) p. 440.
Extension of service granted to the staff of High Court, Appellate Side: (Q.) p. 441.
Want of latrines and urinals in Civil Courts, Sadar, Dinajpur: (Q.) p. 444.

Muslim officers in Jail Departments: (Q.) p. 382.

Muslim security prisoners: (Q.) p. 3

Nalini Das Gupta, a security prisoner

Increment of family allowance of—(Q.) p. 435.

Nandy, Maharaja Sris Chandra, of Cossimbazar

Demand for grants—63—Extraordinary charges in India pp. 402-404
Flood-control schemes: (Q.) p. 223

Narayan Chandra Dutta

Release of Babu—, a security prisoner, on grounds of health: (Q.) p. 303
Security prisoner Sj.—: (Q.) p. 337.

Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra

Nomination of the South Suburban Municipality: (Q.) p. 58.

National War Fronts in districts of Bengal

Organisation of—: (Q.) p. 428.

National War Front

In Murshidabad district (Q.) p. 431.

Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir

Adjournment motion regarding lathi charge by police constables and Sergeants on the workers of the factory of Messrs. Burn & Co., Howrah: p. 390.
Adjournment motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu regarding assault on security prisoners: p. 21.
Appointment of Scheduled Caste candidates as District and Sessions Judges in Bengal: (Q.) p. 188.
Appointment of Sergeants in Calcutta Police: (Q.) p. 8.
Appointment of Supply Officer, Narail, Jessore: (Q.) p. 52.
Arrest of Sj. Moolraj Mehta: (Q.) p. 141.
Assault on security prisoners in the hospital ward of the Rajshahi Jail: (Q.) p. 297.
Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee: (Q.) p. 436.
Chaukidary Reward and Equipment Fund for 24-Parganas: (Q.) p. 444.
Demand for Grants
63—Extraordinary charges in India: p. 390.
General Administration: pp. 310, 360-68.
28—Jails and Convict Settlements: pp. 116, 127.
29—Police: pp. 370, 376.
Disposal of vehicles requisitioned by Government under Defence of India Rules: (Q.) p. 69.

Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir—*concld*

Enquiry into spread of tuberculosis among security prisoners in Presidency Jail: (Q.) p. 56.
Eye-troubles of Dr. Atindra Nath Bose, a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 1.
Facilities for security prisoners to interview with relatives: (Q.) p. 53.
Granting of gratuity to the heirs of a chowkidar of police-station Raiganj shot to death when on duty: (Q.) p. 2.
Grant of leave to Sj. Sunirmal Dutta, a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 476.
Grievances of Haj pilgrims of Bengal: (Q.) p. 535
Grievances of security prisoners in Dum Dum Central Jail (Q.) p. 335.
Holding of meetings in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 104.
Incident in Alipore Central Jail on 6th March, 1945 (Q.) p. 141
Inconvenience of Haj pilgrims of Bengal: (Q.) p. 105.
Increment of family allowance of Nalini Das Gupta, a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 435.
Increment of family allowance to Babu Sitala Kanta Maitra, a security prisoner (Q.) p. 7.
Measures for relief of pressure of work of Subdivisional Officers (Q.) p. 433
Medical treatment of certain political prisoners: (Q.) p. 3.
Medical treatment of security prisoner, Sj. Privalal Sarkar (Q.) p. 223.
Muslim officers in Jail Departments: (Q.) p. 382.
Muslim security prisoners: (Q.) p. 3.
Observations regarding Government defeat on the demand under "40—Agriculture": p. 549.
On the point of order raised by Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee regarding the effect of the adverse vote passed by the Assembly upon the Ministry under demand "40—Agriculture": pp. 553-54, 559.
Point of order regarding question of a general discussion on a budget motion: p. 538.
Recruitment of Sub-Inspectors of Police in 1941 (Q.) p. 14.
Regarding Maulana Mamruzzaman Islamabadi, M.L.A., a security prisoner: (Q.) p. 184.
Regarding Rowlands Committee: (Q.) p. 383.
Release of Babu Narayan Chandra Dutta, a security prisoner, on grounds of health: (Q.) p. 303.
Release of Miss Kiron Chakravarti, a security prisoner, on medical grounds: (Q.) p. 442.
Release of Mrs. Labanya Das Gupta and Miss Shaila Sen on grounds of health: (Q.) p. 477.
Security prisoner Sj. Narayan Chandra Datta: (Q.) p. 338.
Supply of fine rice to security prisoners in Dinajpur Jail: (Q.) p. 6.
Transfer of Executive Officers: (Q.) p. 224.

Nomination

Of members for Jessore Municipality: (Q.) p. 331.
Of the South Suburban Municipality: (Q.) p. 58.

Norton, Mr. H. R.

Demand for Grants—85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939: pp. 461-63.

Nowkhali river

Excavation of the—in Khulna: (Q.) p. 255.

Number

Of deaths, district by district, in the province from starvation since 24th April, 1943: (Q.) p. 100.
Of deaths in the subdivisions of Bakarganj district: (Q.) p. 99.
Of Town and Union Food and Development Committees in Dinajpur district: (Q.) p. 533.

Obituary reference

Of Dr. Sir A. F. Rahman: p. 524.

Opening

Of F. R. E. Hospitals and Sattelite Treatment Centres: (Q.) p. 224.

Organisation

Of National War Fronts in districts of Bengal: (Q.) p. 428.

Overcrowding

In the Nazirhat-Chittagong and Dohazari-Chittagong branch railway lines: (Q.) p. 1.

Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna

Construction of embankments on southern part of Khulna: (Q.) p. 102.
Construction of footpaths on both sides of the line over the railway bridge in the Chandpur town: (Q.) p. 306.
Construction of Sarta bridge over the river Halda: (Q.) p. 140.
Demand for Grant
50—Civil Works and 81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue: pp. 283, 293.
XVII, etc.—Irrigation: pp. 261, 278.
Excavation of the river Nowkhali in Khulna: (Q.) p. 255.
Flood-control schemes: (Q.) p. 223.
Improvement of the Arakan Road: (Q.) p. 74.
Irrigation schemes for Bankura district: (Q.) p. 255.
Overcrowding in the Nazirhat-Chittagong and Dohazari-Chittagong branch railway lines: (Q.) p. 1.

Point of order

Regadring the effect of the adverse vote passed by the Assembly upon the Ministry under demand "40—Agriculture": pp. 550-66.

Political prisoners

Medical treatment of certain—: (Q.) p. 3.

Position

Of rice and wheat in Bengal: (Q.) p. 59.

Postponement

Of union board elections in Tangail subdivision, Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 103.

Post-War Reconstruction Committee of Bengal: (Q.) p. 102.

Powell, Mr. J. A.

Demand for Grant—25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation: p. 251.

Presentation

Of authenticated supplementary schedules of expenditure: p. 23.

Price of rice in Chittagong

Rise in—: (Q.) p. 444.

Public Health Staffs

Duties and functions of certain—: (Q.) p. 61.

Quinine

Selling of—in black-markets: (Q.) p. 63.

Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Mr.

Appointments in the Fisheries Department (Q.) p. 71.

Ramesh Chandra Acharya

Question regarding the health of—: p. 260.

Recruitment

Of Sub-Inspectors of Police in 1944: (Q.) p. 14.

Re-excavation

Of tanks under rehabilitation programme. (Q.) p. 259.

Release

Of Babu Narayan Chandra Dutta, a security prisoner, on grounds of health: (Q.) p. 303.
Of Mrs Labanya Das Gupta and Miss Shaila Sen on grounds of health: (Q.) p. 477.
Of Miss Kamala Das Gupta, B.A., a security prisoner, on grounds of health: (Q.) p. 185.
Of Miss Kiron Chakravarti, a security prisoner, on medical grounds: (Q.) p. 442.

Relief

Under Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Land (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1944: (Q.) p. 304.

Rice and wheat

Position of—in Bengal: (Q.) p. 59.

Rise

In the price of rice in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 444.

Rowlands Committee: (Q.) p. 383.

Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra

Demand for Grant(s)—
63—Extraordinary charges in India: pp. 404-406.
XVII, etc.—Irrigation. p. 273.
38—Medical: p. 195.
Measures for relief of pressure of work of Subdivisional Officers: (Q.) p 433.
Postponement of union board elections in Tangail subdivision, Mymensingh (Q.) p. 103.
Question regarding the health of Ramesh Chandra Acharya: p. 260
Selling of quinine in black-markets (Q.) p. 63.

Ray, Mr. Dhananjoy

Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Dacca (Q.) p 58.

Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna

Demand for Grants—85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939: pp 456-58
Irrigation schemes for Bankura district: (Q.) p 255.

Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar

Medical treatment of certain political prisoners (Q.) p. 3.

Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath

Demand for Grant 57—Miscellaneous p. 137.

Roy, Mr. Patiram

Construction of embankments on southern part of Khulna: (Q.) p 102.
Demand for Grant(s)
85A Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939. p. 456.
12—Co-operation p 233.
37—Education General p. 154
10—Forests. p. 89.
General Administration: pp 352-53
25—General Administration Debt Conciliation. p. 249.
43—Industries—Industries pp. 495-97.
7—Land Revenue: pp. 31-32.
39—Public Health: p. 213
Excavation of the Nowkhali river in Khulna: (Q.) p. 255.

Sabai-grass cultivation: (Q.) p. 18.

Sahabe-Alam, Mr. Syed

Appointment of Sergeants in Calcutta Police: (Q.) p. 8.

Sanaullah, Dr.

Appointment of dismissed, discharged and retired Government servants: (Q.) p. 338.
Construction of Sarta bridge over the river Halda: (Q.) p. 140.
Duties and functions of certain public health staffs: (Q.) p. 64.
Improvement of the Arakan Road: (Q.) p. 74.
Muslim security prisoners: (Q.) p. 3.
Overcrowding in the Nasirbat-Chittagong and Dohazari-Chittagong branch railway lines: (Q.) p. 1.

Sanaullah, Dr.—*concld.*

Rise in price of rice in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 444.
Shortage of sugar in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 149.

Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha

Arrangement for reporting Hindi speeches: p 309.
Assault on prisoners in Jail: p. 536.
Demand for Grant(s)
27—Administration of Justice: pp. 111, 126.
85A Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939. pp. 450-54.
50 Civil Works and 81 Civil Works not charged to Revenue: p. 286.
42—Co-operation. p. 231.
63 Extraordinary charges in India: pp 390-97.
General Administration: pp. 315-18, 326-28.
43 Industries Cinchona: pp. 511-14.
XVII, etc. Irrigation: p. 261.
38 Medical p. 198.
47 Miscellaneous Department: p. 515
13 Other taxes and duties. p. 91.
4 Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax p 23.
Disturbance at the annual session of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema Bangala: p. 377.
Malpractice in issue and distribution of quinine in Murshidabad district: (Q.) p 478.
Method of selection and details of persons appointed as agents or controlled shopkeepers in Khulna, Jessore and Murshidabad districts: (Q.) p. 187.
On the point of order raised by Mr Pramatha Nath Banerjee regarding the effect of the adverse vote passed by the Assembly upon the Ministry under demand "40—Agriculture" pp. 554-58, 559.
On the unparliamentary expressions used by him: pp. 512, 513, 521.
Regarding permission to move a motion in the name of the Deputy Speaker: pp 324, 325, 326.
Point of order regarding question of a general discussion on a budget motion: p. 537
Regarding Rowlands Committee: (Q.) p. 383.

Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Shekhar

Demand for Grant
27 Administration of Justice: p. 106.
50—Civil Works and 81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue: p. 283.
General Administration: pp. 310-15.
4—Taxes on income other than Corporation tax: p. 25.
National War Front in Murshidabad district: (Q.) p. 431.
Organisation of National War Fronts in districts of Bengal: (Q.) p. 428.
Supply of cocoons and charka silk to reelers and filature owners: (Q.) pp. 19, 49.

Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan

Demand for Grant—37—Education—General: p. 169.
Scheduled Castes' Education Fund: (Q.) p. 525.

Sarta Bridge

Construction of—over the river Halda: (Q.) p. 140.

Scheduled Caste candidates

Appointment of—as District and Sessions Judges in Bengal: (Q.) p. 188.

Scheduled Castes' Education Fund: (Q.) p. 525.

Scheme

For improving the subordinate inspectorate for proper supervision of primary schools: (Q.) p. 333.

Security prisoner, Dr. Atindra Nath Bose

Eye-troubles of—: (Q.) p. 1.

Security prisoner(s)

Enquiry into spread of tuberculosis among—in Presidency Jail: (Q.) p. 56.
Facilities for—to interview with relatives: (Q.) p. 53.
Grievances of —in Dum Dum Central Jail: (Q.) p. 334.
Medical treatment of—Sj. Priyalal Sarkar: (Q.) p. 223.
Sj. Narayan Chandra Datta: (Q.) p. 337.
Statement by the Hon'ble Home Minister about assault on—: p. 105.

Selling

Of quinine in black-markets: (Q.) p. 63.

Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra

Demand for Grant(s)
42—Co-operation: p. 241.
General Administration: pp. 347-48.
43—Industries—Industries: pp. 497-98.
7—Land Revenue: pp. 34-35.
28—Jails and Convict Settlements: p. 125.
8—Provincial Excise: p. 79.
Transfers and postings in the Education Department: (Q.) p. 60.

Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath

Deaths due to starvation in Bengal: (Q.) p. 222.
Demand for Grants—43—Industries—Industries: pp. 485-87.

Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie

Demand for Grant(s)
37—Education—General: p. 109.
General Administration: pp. 353-54.
Holding of meetings in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 104.

Sergeants in Calcutta Police

Appointment of—: (Q.) p. 8.

Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja

Dearth of materials for different industries in Birbhum district: (Q.) p. 72.
Demand for Grant(s)
43—Industries—Industries: pp. 482, 503-506.
47—Miscellaneous Departments: pp. 515, 521-23.
5—Salt: pp. 27, 30-31.
Hand-loom industry in Bankura district: (Q.) p. 342.
Holding of meetings in colliery area: (Q.) p. 339.
Industrial School at Nangalkut in Tippera district: (Q.) p. 529.
Mulberry cultivation and fixation of price of cocoon: (Q.) p. 70.
Post-war Reconstruction Committee of Bengal: (Q.) p. 102.
Supply of cocoons and charka silk to reelers and filature owners: (Q.) pp. 19, 49.
Supply of materials and implements to weavers and artisans of Tangail: (Q.) p. 437.

Shahedali, Mr.

Demand for Grant
37—Education—General: p. 164.
7—Land Revenue: pp. 35-36.
39—Public Health: p. 213.

Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.

Financial position of Faridpur District School Board: (Q.) p. 256.

Shortage

Of sugar in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 149.

Singha, Bhupendra Chandra, Maharaj, of Susang

Demand for Grant—37—Education—General: p. 172.

Sinha, Sj. Manindra Bhusan

Demand for Grant—39—Public Health: p. 218.
Hand-loom industry in Bankura district: (Q.) p. 342.

Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.

Bamboo cultivation: (Q.) p. 15.
Sabai-grass cultivation: (Q.) p. 18.

South Suburban Municipality

Nomination of the—: (Q.) p. 58.

Speaker, Mr. (the Hon'ble Mr. Syed Nausher Ali)

Arrangement for reporting Hindi speeches: p. 309.
Obituary reference of Dr. Sir A. F. Rahman: p. 524.
Observations on the point of order raised by Dr. Abdul Mutaleb Malik regarding unparliamentary expressions used by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal: pp. 512, 513, 521.
Observations regarding question of a general discussion on a budget motion: p. 537.

Speaker, Mr. (the Hon'ble Mr. Syed Nausher Ali)—*concld.*

Regarding permission to move a motion in the name of the Deputy Speaker: pp. 324, 325, 326.

Ruling on the point of order raised by Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee regarding the effect of the adverse vote passed by the Assembly upon the Ministry under demand "40—Agriculture": pp. 561-66.

Stark, Mr. A. F.

Point of order regarding question of a general discussion on a budget motion: p. 539.

Starvation

Deaths due to—in Bengal: (Q.) p. 222.

Present arrangement for ascertaining and recording of deaths due to—: (Q.) p. 184.

Steps

Taken by Government to combat malaria in Faridpur: (Q.) p. 67.

Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H.

Demand for Grants—63—Extraordinary charges in India: pp. 411-12.

Sub-Inspector of Police

Recruitment of—in 1944. (Q.) p. 14.

Sugar

Shortage of—in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 149.

Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.

Demand for Grants

85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939: pp. 444, 467-73.

63—Extraordinary charges in India: pp. 416-25.

Effect of control on prices of various articles: (Q.) p. 436.

Indenture of essential food commodities for Faridpur district (Q.) p. 532.

Method of selections and details of persons appointed as agents or controlled shop-keepers in Khulna, Jessore and Murshidabad districts: (Q.) p. 187.

Number of Town and Union Food and Development Committees in Dinajpur district: (Q.) p. 533.

Position of rice and wheat in Bengal: (Q.) p. 59.

Regarding question of a general discussion on a budget motion: pp. 539, 540, 541.

Rise in price of rice in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 444.

Shortage of sugar in Chittagong: (Q.) p. 149.

Sunirmal Dutta, a security prisoner

Grant of leave to Sj.—: (Q.) p. 475.

Supply

Of cocoons and charka silk to reelers and filature owners: (Q.) pp. 19, 49.

Of fine rice to security prisoners in Dinajpur Jail: (Q.) p. 6.

Supply—*concld.*

Of materials and implements to weavers and artisans of Tangail: (Q.) p. 437.

Supply Officer

Appointment of—of Narail, Jessore: (Q.) p. 52.

Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar

Demand for Grant(s)

37—Education—General: p. 156.

63—Extraordinary charges in India: pp. 401-402.

43—Industries—Industries: pp. 493-95.

Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.

Demand for Grant(s)

37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European: p. 182.

37 Education—General: pp. 151, 177.

11—Registration: pp. 182, 183.

Financial position of Faridpur District School Board: (Q.) p. 256.

Scheduled Castes' Education Fund: (Q.) p. 525.

Scheme for improving the subordinate inspectorate for proper supervision of primary schools: (Q.) p. 334.

Transfers and postings in the Education Department: (Q.) p. 60.

Upper Primary and Lower Primary Schools of Midnapore district having at least one-third of the students belonging to Scheduled Castes: (Q.) p. 535.

Town and Union Food and Development Committees in Dinajpur district

Number of—: (Q.) p. 533.

Transfers and postings

In the Education Department: (Q.) p. 60.

Transfer

Of Executive Officers: (Q.) p. 224.

Union Board elections

Postponement of—in Tangail subdivision, Mymensingh: (Q.) p. 103.

Upper Primary and Lower Primary School of Midnapore district having at least one-third of the students belonging to Scheduled Castes: (Q.) p. 535.

Vaccination

Exemption of conscientious objectors from—: (Q.) p. 69.

Vital statistics

Of Midnapore: (Q.) p. 61.

Of the Goalundo subdivision: (Q.) p. 100.

Waliur Rahman, Maulvi

Demand for Grant—38—Medical: p. 192.

Want of latrines and urinals in Civil Courts, Sadar, Dinajpur: (Q.) p. 444.

Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

Demand for Grant

42—Co-operation: p. 284.

37—Education—General: p. 166.

BGP-48/7-3151A-500